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Merrillville

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Merrillville Herald

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The Merrillville story: The more things change...

By Rick A. Spicer

The more things change, the more they remain the same.

Anyone familiar with the past, present, and future of the town of Merrillville would have to admit, no matter how corny it sounds, that the old proverb never rang more true than when discussing the largest town in Indiana.

Merrillville, nameless at the time, was a developing area as early as the 1700's when the Indians and later, trappers and other rugged individuals from the French Canadian provinces used this flat, rolling area. One European visitor described his impression of the land as the spot "where the prairie meets the dense forest".

That wide, open expanse, covered by scrub grass and sparse tree populations, became a natural haven for the redskinned settlers. Indians tended to group in small bands of less than 50 in this part of the woods. The availability of 16 separate trails intersecting the major Salk Trail route made this area a natural meeting ground for our earliest pioneers.

A major burial ground of the Indians stood where nice homes currently exist in the Forest Hills subdivision. Over 100 known graves occupied the spot, and ceremonial grounds were close by.

The flurry of activity rose around Merrillville at certain seasons, when the migration patters of the Indians brought them here through the extensive trail system. On their way to or from other villages and trading posts between the Ohio River, southern Michigan, and Fort Dearborn (Chicago), the Indians met and congregated here. The flatness of the land, combined with the lack of standing water found in much of the rest of the region, allowed the Indians to camp and enjoy themselves for a few days.

Indians from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Kentucky, and other then unnamed areas circulated in large numbers around the area near 73rd avenue, as we know it today.

Peace pervaded the area, as tribes mixed and mingled, dancing the night away in one of several flatlands that were available. Large ceremonial dances, free-for-all get-togethers, and other socializing existed here among the red people. Pottawatomies held their intertribe councils here.

Then along came Jeremiah Wiggins, and

Cont. on page 16

Progress Symposium asks:

How do you view Merrillville in the year 2000?

We made a vow in late 1985 that we would make this the best Progress Issue the Merrillville Herald had ever put on the newsstand.

Several different ideas were tossed about, and one prevelant theme germinated into the main feature of this week's newspaper.

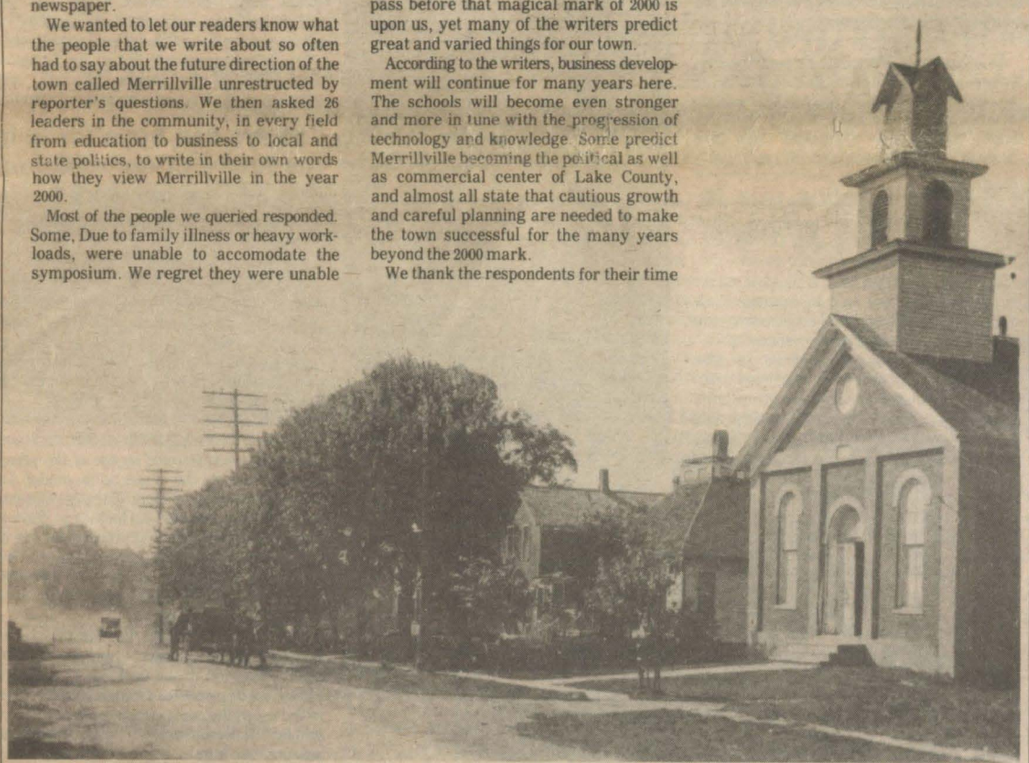
We wanted to let our readers know what the people that we write about so often had to say about the future direction of the town called Merrillville unrestructed by reporter's questions. We then asked 26 leaders in the community, in every field from education to business to local and state politics, to write in their own words how they view Merrillville in the year 2000.

Most of the people we queried responded. Some, Due to family illness or heavy workloads, were unable to accomodate the symposium. We regret they were unable to participate, but understand their reasons.

In these next few pages, the respondents, in their own handwriting, tell you, the reader, how they would like, or how they see, Merrillville's progress on through the end of this century. Only 14 years will pass before that magical mark of 2000 is upon us, yet many of the writers predict great and varied things for our town.

According to the writers, business development will continue for many years here. The schools will become even stronger and more in tune with the progression of technology and knowledge. Some predict Merrillville becoming the political as well as commercial center of Lake County, and almost all state that cautious growth and careful planning are needed to make the town successful for the many years beyond the 2000 mark.

We thank the respondents for their time and their intelligent insights into their beliefs and dreams of the Merrillville future. We hope you enjoy reading the statements as much as we did, and that the thoughts provoked by the wide range of topics and issues become the subjects of dinner table discussion for many weeks to come.



1910 Merrillville thoroughfare

This picture, provided by Bertha Reder, shows Merrillville in the year 1910 as depicted on a postcard at the time. The big old Methodist Church on the right, built in 1879, is now the Ross Township Trustees office. As you can see, the dirt road was bordered by few buildings then.

Best of all worlds in Progress Edition

This year's ***Herald Progress Edition*** offers the reader the best of three worlds, the past, present and future of Merrillville as told by its citizens and historians.

Inside, along with the aforementioned symposium, you'll find articles on an 1884 account of life in the region (page 26), the discussion of the need for a new town hall (35), a history of the Ross Township school system (29), new technologies to change our future (33) and the 'Land God forgot to finish.' (33).

We'd like to thank all of our production staffs for a tremendous effort in putting together this month-long project. Old photos, documents, drawings, etc. are not easily handled or reproduced, and long hours were spent hunched at typesetting machines. We think you'll find the results interesting.

And, also a big thank you to all the people of Merrillville who have helped make this the best Progress Edition ever.

-The Editor

Hi-tech future for NW Indiana?

"The days of glory are over!"

"Steel, which has been the lifeblood of Northwest Indiana is not leaving, but it is time to get to the work at hand of providing for an alternative to big manufacturing centers that dictate the economy of the area."

Those strong statemennts were part of an overview of the past, and a presentation of future possibilities for the economic climate of Lake and Porter counties by Indiana University economist Dr. Leslie Singer to the Merrillville Exchange Club. Dr. Singer stressed several times during his lecture that the aims and directions of the area are misplaced, and the arrow must fly in a totally different target line if this area is to survive.

The talk of saving the steel industry is mute, pointed out Dr. Singer, because the industry has reached a plateau, a bottoming out. "There will always be steel, and the steel industry can expect gains in the future. However, they will be gains in production, not employment," he told the audience.

Dr. Singer has preached for many years that the areas of concentration needed for a healthy local economy are already available. The professor and developer of world accepted economic models and textbooks has publicly lectured many times that this area can and will reach a productivity level never imagined if segments that affect this economy can work together.

Only those levels will not be in large, multinational industries that are subject to market whims.

High technology, that catch all word that simplifies many area of business production, economics, industries, and many other facets, is the key to area growth, says the economist.

"We, (America) can not beat the Third World countries in improving factors of productions," he points out. Other countries, due to many factors, are much better at implementing new systems to turn out and market products world wide, Dr. Singer suggests.

Educator asks:

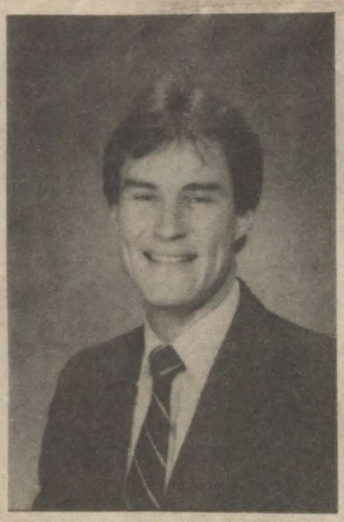
—Can we survive in contrast to state economic famine?

By Dr. Anthony Lux

Residents throughout the state of Indiana face many common concerns about the future. The reasons are obvious.

There appear to be few signs of imminent improvement in the state with respect to major economic growth and increased employment. The failure of Indiana to capture recent automotive construction plant contracts would speak to this point.

"Belief, self-determination, and commitment to a plan of action built around a community vision of economic success and social harmony are three cornerstones which can help ensure a resounding "YES!"



The question that arises on a local level is to what extent will regional areas of the state reflect the condition of the state as a whole. Can a regional area such as Merrillville stand in successful contrast to a surrounding area and state beset by struggle, hardship and economic famine?

The answer to such a question rests not so much in considering whether the possibility is feasible but rather in beginning to plan for the actuality of such a concept. Belief, self-determination and commitment to a plan of action built around a community vision of economic success and social harmony are three cornerstones which can help ensure a resounding "YES!" to the stated question.

A fourth cornerstone consists of detailed planning based on recognizing the resources of the local area. These resources, when fully developed, will bear the fruit economic growth and social harmony. The Merrillville Chamber of Commerce has already begun such a program for economic growth and development.

This discussion will not attempt to expound on the physical and economic resources available. That will be left up to those more knowlegeable in this area that I. One other resource, however, that shall be discussed here is the education of youth.

Education has been recognized as an important resource both on a national as well as a state level. The National Committee for Economic Development states in its opening chapter of **Investing In Our Children,**

> When public schools are successful, they become a national treasure. They can instruct and inspire our young people. They can give life to local communities, contributing to their economic growth and social well-being. They can pave the road to employment, greater opportunity, and more productive lives.

Similarly, the Hoosiers for Economic Development Committee has stated in an information publication for **Indiana Partners in Education,**

> Education and economic growth-there is a growing understanding that excellence in the schools translates into graduates who become better consumers and producers in society...we regard the health of the state's educational system and the quality of the learners it produces as critical to the future growth of the Indiana economy.

Locally, the Merrillville community has also recognized the critical dependence of a successful future on successful education of its young people. This can be seen in the tremendous support given by the Chamber of Commerce in such programs as the Merrillville Chamber Advancement Foundation and by the obvious pride and support of the parents and citizens of Merrillville in its schools.

What must lie ahead, then, in order to continue to maintain this reciprocal relationship of educational excellence and economic growth, is continued support and interchange between the community and its schools. Educational outcomes, which will be needed for the year 2000 and beyond, must cooperatively be identified by teachers, parents, and the business community.

This effort has already begun. Surveys have been filled out by parents, teachers, and members of the business community to identify preferred educational objectives needed for the 21st Century. The results of these surveys are being compiled and analyzed at this very time. In addition, input from parents about school characteristics that have been found to be correlated with Effective Schools is also being studied to identify ways in which Merrillville Schools can be improved.

"All we can hope for is in the future of our children, and all that we work for is the success of their future."

On another front, a Curriculum Improvement Committee, formed after the Merrillville School Corporation was selected as one of ten school corporations in the state as a model for curriculum improvement, is re-evaluating curriculum objectives and looking at ways to provide teachers with additional means of improving instructions. Here again, this committee is made up of teachers, parents, administrators, students, and members of the business community.

Educational priorities for the future are being discussed by this committee and have been addressed in the community surveys. One of these priorities is student instruction in the use of the computer as an instructional tool for the present and as a lifetime skill and resource the future.

Another priority is the need for emphasis on higher level thinking skills. Simple recall of information is insufficient and inefficient in an age where the amount of information being discovered and stored is increasing in an ever accelerating manner. The emphasis in education for the future must be placed on how information is identified, organized, analyzed and evaluated.

I believe that Merrillville will be able to provide for its future economic success and social well being in the 21st Century. The crucial ingredients of commitment, self-belief, determination, and well-organized planning to utilize all local resources are present. Included, and perhaps most important, in these resources is the education of young people.

The attitude that I see in the community of Merrillville that makes me feel so confident in its future might best be summed up by saying:

All that we hope for is in the future of our children, and all that we work for is the success of their future.

Stopping crime in future mandatory

By Judge Darlene Wanda Mears

Merrillville citizens can take pride in their community. It is a progressive town where people are involved in local government, schools, businesses and other areas. The people of Merrillville have worked together to ensure that their community is a comfortable, safe place to live.

As Senior Judge of the Lake County Superior Court, Juvenile Division, I am particularly pleased with the manner in which Merrillville's citizens have addressed the issue of juvenile delinquency... a problem confronted by all communities regardless of size, location, and other socio-economic factors.

In Merrillville, citizens have taken an active role in combating juvenile crime, realizing that problems must be confronted, not ignored.

In Merrillville, citizens have taken an active role in combating juvenile crime, realizing that problems must be confronted, not ignored. It is easier at times, to disregard a controversial issue despite the obvious consequences resulting from that type of "laissez-faire" attitude.

Considering the past and present cooperation demonstrated by Merrillville townspeople with the court, I can base some assumption on the town's future in terms of how it will work toward helping troubled youth. In order to predict the future, it is necessary to consider the events of the past. How the court operates, the attitude of the public, and the results of what has transpired thus far, are all factors in determining how juvenile crime will be dealt with in the future.

The Juvenile Court is dependent on the cooperation and interaction of the police, schools, agencies, businesses and the citizens of each community. All of these representatives contribute to the success or failure of the court's operations. The court simply cannot function properly without the assistance of the people.

The goals of the Juvenile Court are to protect the citizens residing within the community; and to provide youths who have come to the court's attention for delinquency matters, or status offenses (runaways, truants, curfew or incorrigility) with needed services in an effort to prevent further anti-social behavior.

The court and its probation staff work toward rehabilitating youth in order to minimize the chances of any future delinquent behavior. In some cases, taking the child out of the community becomes necessary in the interests of both the community, and the juvenile offender.

The Juvenile Court has used a variety of new ideas, and programs in an effort to reduce juvenile crime. Many citizens of Merrillville have cooperated and allowed these programs to be put into use. Incarceration can oftentimes be only a short-term solution for a long-standing problem, and other alternatives are needed to improve the court system's effectiveness.

An example of Merrillville's contributions toward rehabilitating juvenile offenders, is the Merrillville School Program that was incorporated into the Lake County Juvenile Center curriculum. Juveniles who are detained for the protection of the community and themselves, are able to continue their education, thereby making constructive use of the time they spend while incarcerated.

The program was formalized in 1984 through joint efforts of the court, the Lake County Commissioners and the Merrillville School administrators. Participating teachers come from the Merrillville Senior High School and provide instruction to juveniles meeting the necessary criteria. Teachers use time after regular school hours, to instruct juveniles who are detained, in basic skills in such areas as math and English.

There has been a decline in the number of juvenile referrals and arrests in Merrillville in recent years.

Vocational training in computers, electronics and other areas is also part of the program. Children are able to earn credits so that they can continue the education process following their release from detention.

Merrillville has also supported the court's Community Service Work Program, which allows certain juveniles who meet strict criteria set up by the court, to perform volunteer services at various agencies. Community work assists participating agencies, as well as the youth, who learn that they have an obligation to repay the community for any disservice done. Southlake Mental Health Center's "Tel-A-Tape" program, and the Merrillville Police Department are both participating groups who have willingly helped in the juvenile rehabilitation process.

Many Merrillville residents have contributed on their own, in an attempt to cut down their community's crime rate. Citizens have organized into Neighborhood "Crime Prevention" units, an effective measure used to protect, and to prevent crime in their neighborhoods.

These are just some of the programs that Merrillville citizens have taken part in while trying to protect its community. Without the cooperation and concern of the people, the court would be ineffective in its role in working with troubled youth. Education, and other preventive measures are only effective when people take an active part in the process. The people of Merrillville have demonstrated their concern by working with the Juvenile Court to guard their community, while at the same time, addressing the overall problems contributing to juvenile delinquency.

There has been a decline in the number of juvenile referrals and arrests in Merrillville in recent years. Community awareness and involvement may be contributing factors in helping curtail juvenile crime in Merrillville.

Based on the citizens' past and present attitudes and actions, I have a very optimistic view for the town's future in the year 2000 concerning juvenile deliquency. With continued cooperation between the court, police and the prosecutor, Merrillville citizens will maintain its community record of high standards.

Early preventive measures must be used to keep juveniles from becoming adult criminals. I believe Merrillville citizens will continue their struggle to keep crime out of their neighborhoods by cooperating with the various agencies involved in working with juvenile delinquents. Merrillville residents are to be commended for having the courage to face up to a problem, such as juvenile crime and uniting together to find solutions to make their community a better place in which to live.

Judge Mears is the Senior Judge, Superior Court-Lake, Juvenile Division.

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#1 AWARD WINNER FOR CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

It all began 18 years ago in 1968 when Rich Schepel purchased a small dealership in Crown Point, IN.

This dealership was very small, with inadequate facilities and was selling less than 100 new cars a year at the time of purchase.

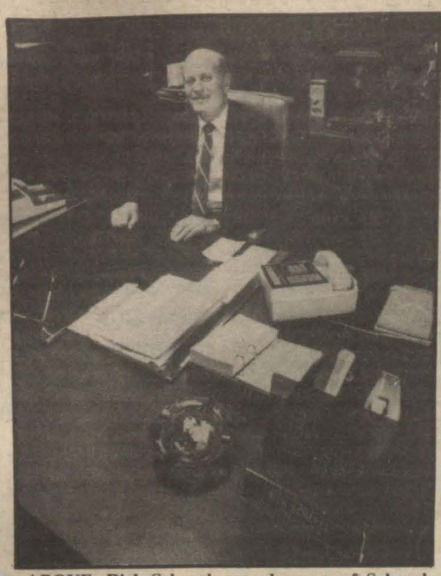
Within 25 months, Rich had built the new dealership, at its present location on U.S. 30.

On Dec. 15th, 1970, Rich moved his dealership into their beautiful new facility.

After only 1 year of operation at their new location, Schepel had become the largest volume Buick dealership in Northwest Indiana and has retained that position for the past 16 years.

Schepel Buick, Inc. prides itself on offering the largest selection of new Buicks in Northwest Indiana, on offering the nicest selection of pre-driven automobiles in the area, of our award-winning service department and professional sales team.

We are also proud of our new Service Dept. & Body Shop (below).



ABOVE: Rich Schepel, proud owner of Schepel Buick, Inc.

RICH SCHEPEL HAS SERVED ON THE GENERAL MOTORS PRESIDENTS COUNCIL IN 1984 AND HAS BEEN APPONTED TO SERVE AGAIN IN 1986.

•SCHEPEL BUICK, INC. has won the prestigious Buick Motors Division select 60 award for 7 out of the past 10 years.

The recipients of this award are determined by a series of points scored on such things as: new car delivery, profitability, customer satisfaction, new car delivery (condition of auto when delivered), and new product service training for employees. They are determined by questionaires sent to the customers of the 150 largest volume Buick dealerships in the United States. (out of approximately 3,000 Buick dealerships in the entire U.S.)

•In 1982 and 1984, SCHEPEL BUICK, INC. won the Honored #1 Award for outstanding customer satisfaction. (This award is determined by questionaires sent to the customers of the select 60 winners and then returned to Buick Motors Division). In 1983, Schepel missed this award by 1 point.

THEREFORE, SCHEPEL BUICK IS NOT ONLY IN THE TOP 60 DEALERSHIPS IN THE U.S., BUT IS #1 OF THE TOP 60!

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Above: Schepel Buick's new Body Shop.

Because of the tremendous growth of business, Schepel felt the need to expand their service parts department & body shop.

Ground breaking for the new addition took place on July 23rd, 1985 and is now completed. This addition enlarged the parts department, built a completely new body shop, and doubled the size of the service department.

The new body shop has the latest equipment available including a new spray booth with infrared lights for quick drying, this is the only spray booth of its kind in the entire Chicagoland area; we also have on staff the finest & most prominent men in the area for these jobs.

Below: Schepel Buick's Showroom.

Above: Schepel Buick's Service Department.

WE AT SCHEPEL BUICK BELIEVE:

—Service after the sale is just as important as the sale itself.

—Satisfied customers are our best means of advertising.

—Keeping our service customers satisfied is the only way we can make our business prosper.

SCHEPEL BUICK, INC. feels that we have the finest staff of 60 handpicked employees.

We feel by employing the best people and offering the finest facilities we have made our dealership the best in the area to purchase, service & repair your automobile. So stop by soon and compare our new facilities to our competitors.

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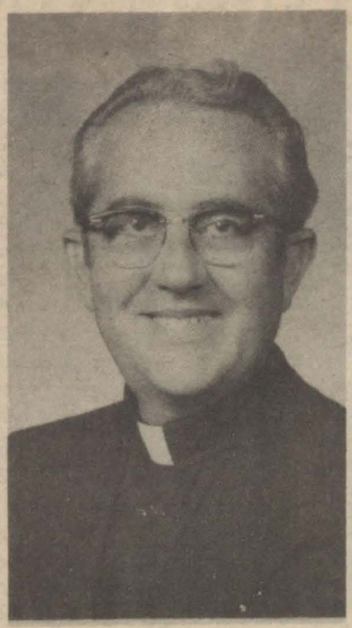
Logical growth needs intelligent planning

By Father Evagoras Constantinides

In the uncertainty and confusion which prevails in the world today, to be able to see 16 years ahead, is a most challenging proposition. And yet, to make the attempt to see Merrillville in the year 2000 is also a most exciting prospect.

The best way to do it is to take a look back, weigh the present and then gaze into the future.

"If Merrillville became, in the last 16 years, what it is today...why should one not look with confidence to the year 2000?"



I arrived in this area some 16 years ago, in September 1969, to pastor the SS. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church at 13th and Jackson Streets in Gary. The present property of the church, badly needed for expansion, at Highway 30, Old Merrillville Road and Madison Streets, had been purchased the year before.

When I first visited it, I was lost in weeds high over my head. It was out in the "Wilderness" and many parishioners had very serious doubts about the wisdom of purchasing this piece of land "so far away!" But it was a sleeping giant which would wake up one day soon and become the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, one of the landmarks in the State of Indiana. We are proud to have made this contribution.

I purchased a home in an unincorporated area of Ross Township at 94th Place and Arthur Street, which was veritably surrounded by cornfields. It is now a lovely residential community, since annexed by Crown Point. The Merrillville sky-line was a flat and uninspiring farmland with a few dwellings here and there and a lot of ethnic pockets spilling over from the City of Gary. There was no Twin Towers; no Holiday Star Theater; no imposing three-winged Methodist Health Center; no Gainer Bank Building; no Malls; no Prudential Building; no stores or shopping centers of any consequence. But the seed of progress and growth was in gestation and given the right conditions it burst out into the new Merrillville, the cosmopolitan, and the thriving largest and newest town in Indiana. It was a minor miracle accomplished through the combined efforts of groups and individuals led by effective, honest and forward looking government.

"Several years ago, the federal government wanted to construct an airport in the area to alleviate congestion at O'Hare. The objections of the residents was so violent that the project was abandoned."

Thus my conclusion: If Merrillville became, in the last 16 years, what it is today--a buzzing center of culture, business, the arts, recreation and religion, with two Orthodox Cathedrals, SS. Constantine and Helen and St. Elijah, and many other beautiful churches; Southlake Mall; Century mall and several other smaller malls; unequalled schools and theaters; unsurpassed restaurants, (with some needed control as to number however); vital business and ethnic summer festivals to rival Chicago and attract many residents of that city, why should one not look with confidence to the year 2000?

But the confidence has to be based on sound planning. The lean years we are now traversing should teach us the lesson that this area must never again be permitted to remain as a one industry area. Through sincere cooperation with the governments of all neighboring cities and towns, an aggressive effort must be made to attract all types of businesses to the area.

Several years ago, the federal government wanted to construct an airport in the area to alleviate the congestion at O'Hare. The objection of the residents was so violent that the project was abandoned. Perhaps it could be revived. Then large businesses would love to move to the area.

And what about the empty Prudential Building? I have heard some talk about it becoming a full fledged Medical School of Indiana University. Or it could become a permanent computer center and exhibit where all the computer companies could rent, lease or buy space and have the latest computer technology on exhibit in one area associated with computer instruction. Or it could become a Museum of Ethnic Cultures where the best that every ethnic group--and there are so many in the area--can boast of could be on exhibit. This could be associated with the teaching of the languages and the folk dances of these groups.

It is a pity that this building is just sitting there empty.

If Merrillville would take the lead in this cooperative aggressive effort to bring multi-faceted light industry and other businesses and enterprises to the area, it will become, by the year 2000, the living heart of a booming Northwest Indiana.

--Father Constantinides is Pastor of the SS. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Merrillville.

Town anticipates regulation of new eateries

By Ed Konrady

Besides being the largest town in Indiana, Merrillville can also lay claim to having one of the largest collections of different fast food restaurants in America.

But the latter boast may not hold true for much longer in the opinion of Paul Jankovich, one of the members of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

The BZA has now designated that restaurants need special exceptions to build anywhere in town. "We're trying to advise them. What we do is recommend they get an economic survey to see if they have enough potential customers.

"But we are not able to tell them they can or can't build a restaurant. We just go over the little details with them."

The strip of U.S. 30 from Westlake Plaza to Taft Street is filled with fast food franchises, but in ten years, Jankovich predicts less of them--not more. "Common sense says that they've got to cut down," he said. "There's just not enough business and too much competition. There are some empty already and soon the more substantial businesses will eliminate the others."

Currently, the strip is now zoned C-3, which is highway commercial. This is one of the broadest zoning descriptions because it basically allows any consumer-oriented business.

While all this talk about franchises closing their doors might not cheer the heart of would-be entrepreneurs, it isn't something for the average Merrillville resident to worry about, according to Jankovich.

"It won't hurt the town," he said. "I hate to see empty buildings, but when the restaurants close down, other businesses remodel the building and open up again.

"The only problem is that land is fairly expensive. The restaurants puts lots of money into the facility, so they ask for a lot. Other businesses don't want to pay so much for rent for a little building."

The oldest commercial bldg. still in Merrillville

The Old Mill, known by various names along the way, is a throwback to a colorful and successful past of the Merrillville commercial fortunes. In the mid-1800's, Merrillville was known as the producer of potent and plentiful drink, and the Old Mill furnished the best of that spirit. From that 1851 beginning, the building has since served in many varied operations, including the first gas engine operated grist mill in Lake County, a school, tavern, and several types of restaurants, including the pizzeria that is there today.

The Old California Exchange Hotel, shown here in a drawing by Jan Clemens Pierce art class, done in 1979, was one of the forebearers of things to come in Merrillville. A favorite stopping place for travelers to Fort Dearborn (Chicago), the 1842 building accomodated partiers, travelers, and local folks before burning in 1910 to be replaced with another restaurant on the same site. The hotel was located at the corner of 73rd and Madison.

REHABILITATION

"THEY PUT THE SPIRIT BACK IN ME."

"I was on my way to the plant when my friends noticed I wasn't behaving normally. I'm lucky they were there, because I was having a stroke. I spent eleven days in the hospital, and my doctor thought I'd be an invalid the rest of my life. I couldn't talk at all, and my right side was paralyzed. I had to have help getting from bed into my wheelchair.

"Now I'm getting around on my own. I'm walking and talking and making progress every day. It took six hours a day for nine weeks to get this far, and it's thanks to Triad at St. Anthony Medical Center.

"The nurses and therapists are great. Their way of helping is to make you want to do it yourself. It was more than physical therapy. Somehow, they put the spirit back in me. They've helped our whole family deal with this. The way I see it, they helped me work a miracle."

George Henry

George "Bob" Henry
Highland, Indiana

Debra Sager, M.O.T., O.T.R., was one of the therapists who worked with Mr. Henry. A Portage resident, Debra has a bachelor of arts degree in medical sciences and a masters degree in occupational therapy. She has had five years of active experience in the field of occupational therapy and specializes in burn care and hand therapy. Her unique training and individual care are among the reasons patients have come to depend on - and praise - St. Anthony's kind of health care.

Debra Sager, M.O.T., O.T.R.
Triad Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
at St. Anthony Medical Center

Intensive rebuilding of body and spirit.

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Triad accepts Medicare patients.

Triad is a service of St. Anthony Medical Center, Southlake Center for Mental Health and Trade Winds Rehabilitation Center

St. Anthony Medical Center, Inc.

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- Crown Point (219) 663-8120 • Merrillville (219) 738-2100
- Lowell, Shelby & Cedar Lake (219) 374-9514

Ross Historical Society fears no one left is interested in area lore

By Rick A. Spicer

An area as rich in history as Merrillville needs someone to document, store, collect, preserve and protect that history, as well as pass that knowledge on to the next generation of inhabitants that make that area their homes.

The Ross Township Historical Society has attempted to undertake such a program since its inception in 1967, but members fear there is no one who is interested in having this area's colorful bygone days, as well as current history, kept alive through them.

James Anderson is the current president of the organizaion, and along with charter members Bertha and Howard Reder, the trio helps keep the Township's past alive, real, and current. But the average age of the club would make it eligible for Social Security, and that has members worried.

"There is so much history here, and the young people just don't seem that interested," says Mrs. Reder. "I don't know how we can get people interested in the lore of the area. But it would be nice to have some young folks at our meetings."

Mr. Anderson echos that sentiment, feeling that much of the work of the club will be lost if younger members aren't recruited to the group. The club has compiled, individually and collectively, stacks of old correspondence, Indian lore, artifacts, and ancient objects of all kinds. And there is no one to enjoy and learn from them.

"Too many of us are from some of the old, original families," he says. "We all grew up here when there were dirt roads, farms, no cars or highways. So we're interested in that sort of stuff. Some of it we just had from our families. But today, people move in and out and the pace of life is different, I guess. But I wish there were people who were interested in what wonderful history there is here."

The club also has had its ups and downs over the years with other problems besides recruiting younger members. The Reders are personally responsible for the development of the John Wood Old Mill County Park on Old Lincoln Highway in east Lake County. At one time, the club received a stipend from the park system based on percentages of the gross from the small entry fee for the park for club use. Over the years, the system reduced the funding until now the society gets nothing.

All the furniture in the Old Mill is owned by the Reders. They purchased and refurbished the antique items for the upstairs living quarters, much of it from the descendants of John Wood.

The old mill has its drawbacks historically, they warn. There were no rooms upstairs like the park system has installed today. There was just one big wall to wall room used for sleeping, sewing, and other living areas.

The two now quietly pursue other historical interests. Mrs. Reder is an avid quilter, and has an extensive collection of Ross Township history memorabilia in the form of photos, meeting minutes, books, post cards, etc.

Indians are Mr. Reder's hobby, and he travels the state in search of original artifacts of the Miamis, Potawatomis, and other tribes native to the Calumet Region.

Mr. Anderson, along with other members of the club, have a wealth of tangible material associated with the forming of Lake County, as well as many stories to tell about this area as it grew from an agricultural area with half a dozen families to the crossroads of Northwest Indiana, a town of 30,000 people and a mover and shaker.

Only there is no one to listen except each other.

Bertha Reder works on one of her quilts at the Old Mill. She is one of the charter members of the Ross Twp. Historical Society.

Society acquires relic of constitution era

The first public printing of the U.S. Constitution and one of the first public announcements of the Ordinance of 1787 were recently acquired by the Indiana Historical Society. These two important documents were printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet*, a newspaper printed in Philadelphia from 1771 - 1790, and are included in a collection of *Pennsylvania Packet* issues which the Society acquired from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

The Indiana Historical Society acquired approximately 1,400 issues of the newspaper covering the years 1776 through 1790. In addition to printing key political documents such as the U.S. Constitution and the Ordinance of 1787, the *Pennsylvania Packet* printed notes of legislative debates, news of key each coast cities and information from the newly created Northwest Territory.

The U.S. Constitution appeared in the *Pennsylvania Packet* on the morning of Sept. 19, 1787 and is the first extant public printing of this document. The *Pennsylvania Packet's* printing of the Constitution is considered to be the purest text because the same type used for the official broadside was also used for this newspaper. Fewer than 20 copies of this public printing are known to exist.

The text of the Ordinance of 1787 was printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet* on July 21, and is considered to be among the first public announcements of this document. The Ordinance of 1787, which is judged to be among the three most fundamental documents in American history, created the territorial system for the Northwest Territory of which Indiana was part, and outlined the process for forming states. The Ordinance was also the first government document which forbade slave holding in the Northwest Territory, encouraged public funding of education, insisted upon freedom of religion and set forth a number of fundamental rights and liberties. Many of the provisions included in the Ordinance were included in the U.S. Constitution when it was written three months later.

The *Pennsylvania Packet*, which in 1784 became the first daily newspaper published in the United States, was founded in 1771 by John Dunlap. In addition to being the publisher of the *Pennsylvania Packet*, Dunlap was also the official printer to Congress and has to his credit the printing of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the Ordinance of 1787 and the United States Constitution.

In order to share this important collection of original 18th century newspapers with the public, the Indiana Historical Society has opened the exhibit, "Newsprint and New Beginnings: The *Pennsylvania Packet* and the Era of the Northwest Ordinance and the United States Constitution, 1786-1787." With the cooperation of Chief Justice Richard M. Givan, this exhibit is on display on the third floor of the Indiana Statehouse at the entrance to the Supreme Court chambers. Each week six consecutive issues corresponding to the week in our present calendar will be put out for viewing. The exhibit will be on display through 1987. 1987 is the bicentennial year of the U.S. Constitution and the Northwest Ordinance and it is the goal of the Indiana Historical Society to use this exhibit to educate the public about both of these significant documents.

For more information about the publications, you may call (317) 232-1882.

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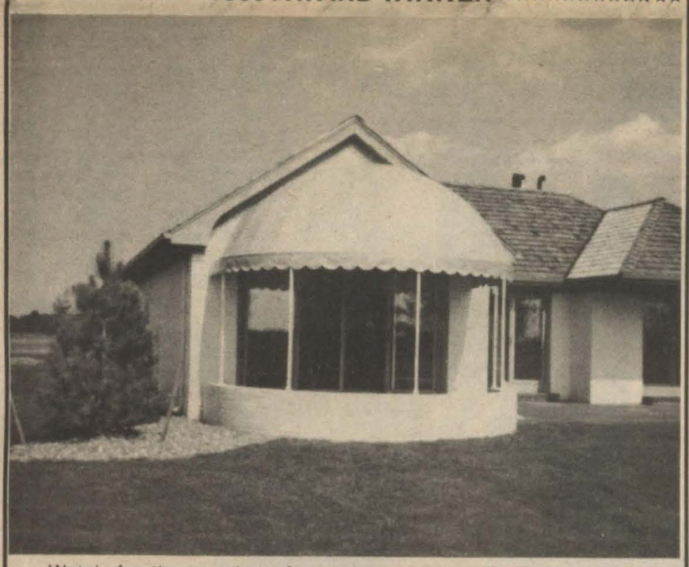

Watch for the opening of our new store at 105 E. 61st Ave. in Merrillville. We are an awning manufacturer for both commercial and residential. All of our awnings are custom made in canvas or aluminum. We do patio covers and patio enclosures. We will repair canvases for boats, or most canvas covers.

Mr. Copallelo, Sr. started his business in 1961 in a garage - they were known then as Copellelo Awning of Steger, Illinois. All manufacturing is still done in Steger, but NOT in just a garage now. Rick Copalello, our manager has worked in the business since he was 12 years old. Our awning company has sponsored a softball team in steger since 1977. We now are up to 6 percent employees.

In 1985 our company won an international award for an awning installed on a semi-circular cabana in Munster (pictured above). So watch for our opening in March in the Merrillville area. We can be reached by phone if you have any early questions regarding obtaining an awning. The number to call is 887-3092.

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Do you have an old antique car you need restored? Do you have a newer model car that could use some body work? The place to go is 5031 Broadway, Classic Auto Body. We do complete body and frame repairs, restoration, custom body work and corvette fiberglass work.

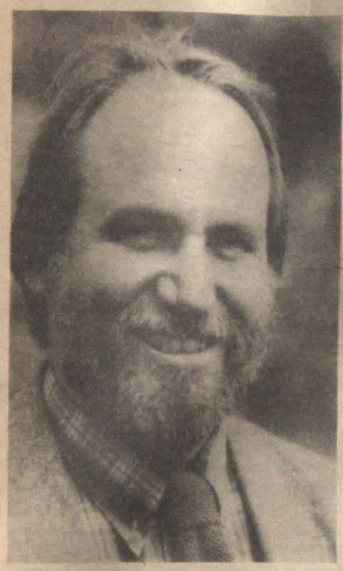
Owner, Bob Knight, started the business in 1976 in Highland, then moved to Griffith, then Glen Park and is now located in Gary. As business increased in size, so did the number of employees. We now have 5 experienced employees and over 50 years of combined experience. For the owner it has been a life-long hobby of his to restore antiques and to build custom cars.

Pictured above (L to R) is owner Bob Knight, Jake Slifer, Tony Inman (Tinman) and Elwood Planer.

Classic Auto Body supports car shows and bowling teams. They have complete uni-body repair equipment. They are the preferred shop by Southlake Dodge, Mr. Neals of Hammond and others.

We do collision repair work on American and foreign cars along with insurance work. Stop in and see them and their work or just give them a call at 884-6012. They are there to serve you.

The future is now in Merrillville



By John Canright

"What is my vision of Merrillville in the year 2000?" I asked myself as I was strolling out of a Houston, Tex. apartment complex on my early morning walk. Houston is a perfect place to think about the year 2000. Like Merrillville, Houston is another community of people busy seeking solutions rather than listing problems. Rosemary and I were in Houston getting acquainted with our first grandchild, James R. Canright, II.

Looking over a landscape still under construction, I said to myself, Merrillville is still building, too. While working in Merrillville in 1985 (on the editorial staff of The Herald the first half of the year and as media relations coordinator for The Methodist Hospitals the second half) I said to myself, I saw quantum leaps in nearly every area of community life - education, banking, business, healthcare, public safety, and even government itself.

Perhaps the biggest commitment to put the technology of the 21st century to work today was by Merrillville Community Schools with its computer literacy program. A program that put personal computers in the hands of every teacher and put student computer labs in every elementary school.

Again innovative funding became part of the picture. The school administration filed for a state grant and became one of 10 Indiana schools to be acepted into a four-year computer literacy program, the school board allocated more than a quarter of a million dollars for the hardware, and community groups such as the Merrillville chamber Advancement Foundation participated.

New-wave finance moved in on at least three fronts during the year.

A consortium of local physicians formed Physicians Imaging Center, invested $3 million dollars, and put on line the first magnetic resonance imaging system in Northwest Indiana.

The Merrillville Chamber of Commerce formed the Merrillville Advancement Foundation to obtain state tax credit and provide a vehicle for business and industry to take advantage of federal tax advantages for gifts to not-for-profit corporations. The Chamber Advancement Foundation raised more than $100,000 for economic development and made a substantial contribution to the Merrillville Community Schools gifted and talented program.

Local banks (Gainer and Bank of Indiana) looked to Porter and LaPorte counties as markets under the new Indiana cross-county banking.

When the 21st century dawns, The Methodist Hospitals Southlake Campus will be 25 years old, but we can be assured the diagnostic and treatment equipment will be that of the future. The tradition to be on the leading edge in healthcare began when the Southlake building was opened; for the first linear accelerator in Northwest Indiana was on line in that building the very day the hospital opened in Merrillville.

Cooperation of town, township, county, state and federal units of government with private businesses and the Merrillville Chamber of Commerce resulted in a highly successful Mississippi Street Traffic Task Force. This effort provides a model for seeking solutions to community problems.

In public safety the body armor fund drive to put bullet proof vests on all Merrrillville Police Officers of the Fraternal Order of Police Associates and the Neighborhood Crime Watch program, spear-headed by the Merrillville Exchange Club are the kinds of programs I see becoming part of a community self-help system of the 21st century.

Amazing to me was the use of computers in every day life in Merrillville. The Unemployment office uses computers to help people find jobs. Postmaster Gerald Kuhn gave me a tour of the Gary Regional operations center. A highly automated system, the mail handling capabilities seem unlimited.

The annual Academic Decathlon for high school students demonstrated to me the Merrillville community realizes the future belongs to the well educated and well trained. Both Andrean and Merrillville High Schools honor student academic achievement with a letter award, the traditional method of honoring athletes.

The promise that the year 2000 is in good hands occurred to me as I witnessed the six student speeches made at the 1985 Merrillville High School Commencement.

John Canright, public relations coordinator for Methodist Hospital, is a former editor of **The Herald.**

Progress of the past not likely to repeat

By Beth Kaminski

It's very interesting to note the year 2000 is 14 years from now. It was 14 years ago (December, 1971) Merrillville was incorporated. It is not likely we will double our progress in the next 14 years as there was a base from which we started in 1971.

With many of our local industries, i.e. steel, in a depressed state, economic development will be a greater challenge the next 14 years. There are a number of groups in the area working on economic development. We must coordinate these efforts.

The Northwest Indina Forum is in a position to do this. Each community must still have its own special inerest and develop its own plan such as the Merrillville Chamber Advancement Foundation and the Merrillville Chamber of Commerce.

We must realize location of a business in one community can be positive for other communities in the area. Maybe support services or residential growth in another community can be an off-shoot of that business.

By helping others, we can help ourselves.

Merrillville is basically made up of service industries. We cannot survive on service industries alone.

We must develop with a balance of manufacturing and light industry. They stimulate development of support industries thereby multiplying at a faster rate. This also creates residential growth of which Merrillville has not experienced a great deal of in recent years.

We have a lot to offer in Merrillville: quality schools, reasonable taxes, entertainment,

See page 8

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Pictured above, from left to right, are Dennis Croak, Debi McQuen, Ted Kolivas, Shirley Norman, and Bruce Milakovic.

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Along with our General Sales Manager, John Henry, is our Store Manager, Bruce Milakovic. As distributors of a large number of most famous name brand vacuum cleaners we are able to offer discount pricing as well as fast repairs and are considered "vacuum cleaner specialists" in our field. We have vacuum cleaner and floor machine sales of most famous name brand machines as well as parts, supplies and repair services.

The Henry Company is a distributor of parts and supplies to a number of independent vacuum cleaner dealers in the United States. We are also a member of the Better Business Bureau.

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Modernization key to police future

By Jerry L. McCory

The Merrillville Police Department hired its first 13 officers on March 1, 1973. The department grew to 15 officers, then to 21, and in 1986 we have just added our 35th police officer.

Just prior to 1973, the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy came into being. Before that time, most policemen were simply given a badge and gun and told to go to work. Every officer in Indiana is not required to receive training from the academy which was a six week course in 1973. It has now been extended to a 12 week course. The ILEA was the first major step taken by Indiana to recognize the need for professionalism in the law enforcement community.

After having the privilege of attending the FBI Academy in 1984, I had the opportunity to talk with other officers from around the country. I found that there are several problems which seem to be consistent in law enforcement throughout. The problem which seems to head the list of most police departments is that of frivolous law suits. These would be law suits which have been brought against officers or police departments that have no foundation. Other problems which concern the Merrillville Police Department are family disturbance calls, calls in which the handling of dogs are involved, and town ordinance violations; such as weed lots and junk cars.

In 1985 the Merrillville Police Department responded to 433 family disturbances.

On these types of calls, the threat of injury exists on a higher rate than from other incidents. For this reason, all police departments would list the family disturbance call as a major concern, and the solution seems to come only from training and experience.

Due to the time involved for sworn officers to handle calls where dogs are involved, weed lots, and junk cars , the police department placed those situations in the hands of an individual hired by the police department in a civilian capacity. He handles the calls which would free the police officer to be able to respond to other emergency situations.

The police department, however, has continued to answer calls where people have locked themselves out of their cars and calls where an accident has occurred on private property. There are pros and cons to these services. However, we at Merrillville have continued to believe that it does offer a service to the citizens.

There are two major problems locally. Number one is the need of a new facility to house the police department. The police department does need to be operated from a larger and more modern facility. This could be accomplished either by building a new facility or moving to an existing, larger building.

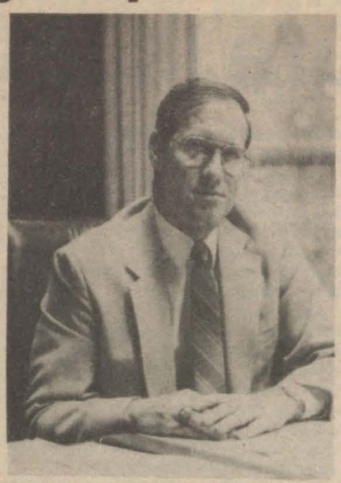
Number two is the computerization of the police department. This would help to streamline the administrative division, as well as help both patrol and detective division to greater information on a much quicker basis than is now possible. This will be an area in which the police department will be working with other departments within the town government to try to accomplish in 1986.

It seems to be common to discuss problems in the forum such as this. The police department has enjoyed some success over the years. For instance, in 1979, we experienced an accident rate of 2,000 accidents a year. Each year since then we have reduced that figure to about 1,600 accidents which would show a 20 percent reduction.

We've also seen the crime rate taken a downward turn since 1979. This has resulted in an over all reduction of more than 18 percent.

In 1985, in the area of larceny, the rate has been the lowest in the history of the police department. Burglaries were the lowest rate in the last 10 years.

Officers also were responding to about 2,000 burglary alarms a year in 1979 and 1980. Our alarm ordinance was passed in



1980, and we have seen a reduction in alarms of better than 50 percent. Each one of these calls would require at least two officers to answer. Therefore, the department is saving a lot of time and manpower with this ordinance in effect. Also, as we touched on earlier, the Code Enforcement Officer has been a very successful addition to our staff.

Another problem which we have solved is that of training. We realized that the end of LEAA money would cause us to find different avenues for training. By working with several other police departments in Northwest Indiana, we put together the Public Safety Training Council, which on an on-going basis, trains the officers in a vast variety of areas.

Looking to the future of the police department, there are several areas which are going to be factors in the type of crime rate and the success we are going to experience over a period of time. The Neighborhood Crime Watch program and its ability to encourage the citizens to call when they see something suspicious will be an important factor.

The economic situation, as well, will be critical. Unemployment has always been a barometer for law enforcement officials to forecast criminal activity. Growing more important is the cooperation of other police departments and other agencies in the utilization of their abilities.

If we are able to work with other police departments and share ideas with each other, it would only work to our advantage. When we utilize the resources available to us, we can put citizens in touch with services that can be helpful to them. I would list as most important that of being open and responsive to the citizens and their needs.

Citizens should be encouraged to contact the police department, not only when they have a crime to report, but when they have information, or if they feel that the police department may be able to help them. I feel that as long as we are able to create an environment for improvement and continue to strive for higher goals, all we can do is improve as a police department.

We would then provide even a better service to the citizens of Merrillville.

-Jerry McCory is the Merrillville Chief of Police

Progress of the past

Continued from page 7

excellent shopping, service businesses, opportunity to live in a suburban atmosphere but near a major metropolitan area and its advantages. As we continue to grow and develop in coming years, all of this will only improve and be an even greater asset.

As the global marketplace has an even greater impact on our country, communities will be in greater competition for businesses. We cannot sit idle and wait for potential businesses to find "Merrillville." An active role must be taken.

One of the fastest growing segments of Merrillville has been health care. With the ever changing technology and changes in the delivery of health care, this will continue. We have Methodist Hospital and numerous physicians of all specialties to provide quality care. With our location (I-65 & Route 30), we can become a regional center with easy access from surrounding areas. We can be the "healthcare mecca" of the northern half of the state.

Our location and availability of transportation will afford us opportunities for other businesses to locate their Midwest distribution centers. This opens the door for warehousing development, something that would be complimentary to the community.

Our future is not bleak -- there are many opportunities on the horizon; we must "seize" them as they are presented.

Beth Kaminski is a vice president of Methodist Hospitals and president of the Chamber of Commerce.

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Anita Harris wraps Kathi Benson's hair for a perm.

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THE HAIR PERFORMERS SALONS in Munster, Griffith and Merrillville were established in 1978 and 1979. They are the third, seventh and 11th franchises in a company that has 232 salons. The leading family haircare centers in northwest Indiana offers a full line of services to all clients: Juniors, teens, regulars and seniors. Free consultations preceeds all appointments. High quality, excellent service and outstanding values are presented with all haircuts and style, perm and color services. There are no hidden charges. Appointments are recommended, but not always necessary. Introductory prices ranging up to **50% OFF** are offered to first-time clients.

The annual perm sale, Dec. 26 through March 15, and the annual color sale, March 15 through May 3, offer all $30-$60 perms and $20 to $30 color at 50% off to all clients. In 1985 we served 36,700 appointments, including 5,474 who received perms.

Our highly trained and skilled designers attend 3 annual events: The Trend releases are held in February and August at which time the new spring/summer and fall/winter hairstyles are presented, discussed and demonstrated, thus enabling our highly trained and educated designers to provide the latest in hair fashions.

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Dean's realizes that their customers have jobs also, and because of this, they are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (an hour later than most) to benefit the ease of their customers to drop off and pick up their cars. We also accept Visa and MasterCard.

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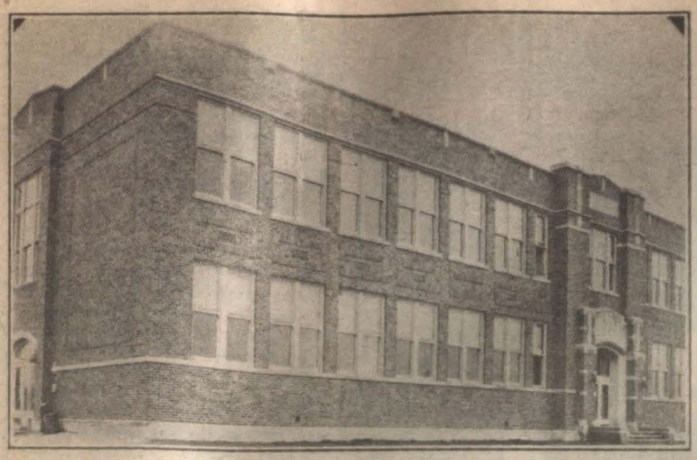

ROSS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

The Ross Township High School left, as it appeared in 1936, and Town Hall, as it is today.

Merrillville town hall outgrown?

If a fishy smell comes from Merrillville's town hall, it might not be any political high-jinks. It seems that the departments in the fabled building are packed in like sardines.

From the stacks of facts in the police department to the piles of files in the clerk/treasurer's office, storage space is at a premium. Even the building permits in the planning and building department are climbing the walls.

"We could really use more space," said Merle Cook, Merrillville's clerk/treasurer. "We don't have any storage space at all.

"If we get a computer, we're really going to be wall to wall."

"By having more space, we could put away the blueprints and file them accordingly," said acting town building and planning commissioner, Jim Dimitri. "More storage space is what we need.

"But it's the same for every department."

"Our filing problem is solved with computerization," said Merrillville Police Chief Jerry McCory. "Our problem is that the office space for 35 people including a detective bureau is really small.

"It really hits our uniform division because there's really no squad room area. Right now we use a small basement area. But it's also our booking room, fingerprint area and where we give breathalizer tests.

"We want to get away from the one-room concept because if we're trying to interview someone and take a fingerprint and give a breathalizer test all in the same room at the same time we could really run into problems."

While the town may be outgrowing its first town hall, the sturdy building has been holding up well.

"We bought it from the school board in 1972 for $55,000," said town trustee Bill Kurtis, "It's had no major breakdowns, but some electrical failures. It's been an efficient building."

If the town did move into a new hall, the old one could have many uses. Kurtis suggested having the Ross Township Historical Society declare it a historical site. The building could be turned into a museum and a meeting place for groups.

But before the old hall is cast aside, a new one must be built. And that's when the subject of cost arises.

When the subject was discussed in 1984, the figure of $2 million was estimated, which Mr. Kurtis feels is necessary if "we want to do it right and have it take us into the 21st century instead of constantly rebuilding and renovating."

Getting the money to finance the project "is feasible," according to Mrs. Cook. "The only way would be bonding with a holding company."

"Bonding is one option," said Mr. Kurtis. "But I think the citizens of Merrillville and business can do it by public subscription and donations.

"Don't get me wrong–it's not going to be done overnight. It'll take selling and work. But it can be done. I have confidence in the business and community here."

Boxes are stacked in piles in nooks and crannie s at Town Hall for lack of space. Below, Mrs. Cortez tries to keep up with the expensive and time consuming chore of cleaning, preserving, and repairing the ancient building.

Land offered for new town hall

With so much discussion about how useful and necessary a new town hall is for Merrillville, a logical question arises about the location the town could use.

Milton Roth, a partner in the law firm of Roth, Pinkerton and Friedman, in Highland, represents a group of people who offered to donate land to the town for the building.

"I represent a group of people who own 135 acres in Savannah Ridge," said Mr. Roth. "I made an offer to the town board, since I had heard that the board might be interested in building a new town hall.

"We're interested in donating a site up to six acres if they can promise that they're going to build on it. The first time we made this offer it got lost in the shuffle, so we recently renewed it."

The original offer, in a letter dated Oct. 12, 1984, concerns land in the area of 73rd and Grant St.

What is in this generous offer for the landowners?

"It's no secret that the property will be enhanced," said Mr. Roth. "If the hall goes there, it will be favorable for subdividing the area (73rd Street between Madison Street and Taft Street). We're interested in making the land more attractive and valuable."

The land is owned by "10 or 12 people, mostly local" according to Mr. Roth, including himself.

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MKB PRODUCTIONS

Photo: MILOSH

Craig Dobis of Soundtech Productions and Mary Kay Balluch of MKB Productions discuss the music plans for the upcoming fashion shows.

MARY KAY BALLUCH coordinator, of MKB Productions is on the move, looking toward the 80s in many exciting directions. Two outstanding events are coming up soon. The Northwest Indiana Bridal & Fashion Expo will be held on February 16, 1986 at the St. Elijah Serbian-American Hall. The Holiday Inn Chicago South/Harvey will be the site of the March 9, 1986 Expo. Individual businesses have requested creative promotions and new images. MKB Productions has a personalized service to accommodate your business needs in today's market. Those interested may contact promotions and public relations representative Mary Harrell at Merrillville 887-8814.

Sign of the old times

James Anderson, left, and Howard Reder hold the first sign to officially designate this area as Merrillville. The old C&O Railroad marker was secured by Mr. Reder after the company abandoned their Merrillville stop on Oct. 26, 1949. Mr. Reder's father was a lifelong station keeper employee at the Merrillville station.

Cheese factory history

One of Ross Townships best know industries in the late 1800's was a cheese making facility run by Ernest Walters. Nicknamed "Cheese Henry," Mr. Walters built a factory, his second, near the C&O Railroad on Harrison Street.

From this location, it was not unusual to see old Cheese Henry in his wagon, headed for Hammond, or Valparaiso, or some other outreaching community. The two story frame building erected in 1880 provided tasty cheese to towns and restaurants all over Northwest Indiana.

He also supplied most of the taverns in the area, as free food was traditionally offered to paying drinkers.

The cheese rolls, at $3 each, provided an outlet for the area dairy farmers who did not reach the supply trains in time to ship their products to Chicago.

The historic building, out of operation for years, was turned into a nine room home after Cheese Henry's retirement in the early 1900's.

The first female editor in Indiana was Frances Wright, who took command of the "New Harmony Gazette" in 1826. Wright, who was born in Scotland, came to the United states in 1816 after traveling in England and France.

Hi-Tech future for Northwest Indiana?

from page 1

"Where we are in command is in implementing new ideas. Invention, design, marketing, there is the key. The mind of the American is tuned into new ideas, which produce new products. We can let the Koreans, or the Japanese, mass produce televisions or video recorders," he says, " but the technology that makes up all these products that the Asians manufacture comes from the United States.

"What we have that no country in the world has more of is brain power," he says to prove his point. And taking that further, Dr. Singer stresses that nowhere in the country is more suited to housing and utilizing that brain trust than here.

"There is no one place in the country that is more suited, more centrally located, to the greatest minds in the world, than Northwest Indiana. You can draw a semi-circle beginning at the University of Minnesota down through the Chicago schools, Purdue, and on up into Michigan and incorporate dozens of universities of which Lake and Porter counties sit right in the middle."

Employers do not ask the same questions they asked years ago: Where are the raw materials, where is the transportation, where is the labor force, how high are the taxes? They want to know where the brains are. "I suggest they are, or can be, right here!" said Dr. Singer.

The location is especially important for the area, but several things are needed to attract and prove this locale as the site for a central brain trust for development and experimenting with new ideas.

An airport, or jetport, for the quick and easy access of professionals and scientists to the region would be needed.

Although he mentions the now vacant Prudential building site in south Merrillville as a possible selection, he adds that a site "three times that size would be needed to house at least 25-35 fully equipped laboratories where scientists can work on models and perform their experiments."

Today's technology derives mostly from military and space innovations, he points out, and we need to get a portion of the civilian application spin-off business that has caused booms in such areas as Boston, Raleigh, NC, and the other Sun Belt communities.

Another tie-in, and the most important from the average worker's standpoint, is that the experimentation that is done will then need someone to build prototypes and models to test and modify the systems.

The skilled labor force here, much of which is currently unemployed if still living in Northwest Indiana, is the final attractant for the brain trust center. The mills have given us very skilled welders, tool and die makers, lathe operators, machinists, and other vocations which are needed to put ideas into reality, he says.

"This country does not spend enough time or effort on prototypes because of monetary and location reasons," he feels, "and we can provide that for technology related companies."

Dr. Singer envisions small, 400-500 employee operations turning out prototypes, and the products that result from those experiments, and he sees the need for dozens of such operations.

"We have the crafts, we have the brains, we have the location, now what we need is people and government to cooperate and exercise the foresight to put these things into production. There is not much time before someone beats us to it," warns the lecturer.

The enthusiastic Dr. Singer is ready to share his plan wth government and business leaders anytime they are seriously ready. The state of the local economy, and our location, make Lake and Porter counties a sure thing if the plans were begun soon, he says.

"Where else would you put it?! he asks, warning, "but we had better do it soon." *By Rick A. Spicer*

Pictured above (seated) is Mary Banina, owner and Certified Hearing Aid Audiologist, and Patty Nicoles, Hearing Aid Consultant ready to evaluate your hearing and your ability to understand speech with the Audiometer.

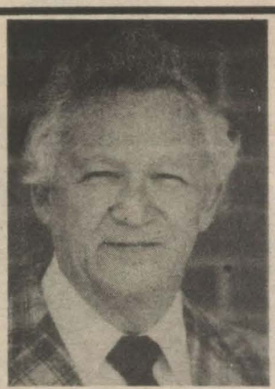
Service and sales of all makes and models of hearing aids can be taken care of at **MERRILLVILLE HEARING UNLIMITED.** We are located at 5853 Broadway. Our phone number is 980-8530. We also do testing and work closely with doctors - as medication changes, hearing evaluation also changes.

We were founded in July, 1982 and have three present employees. Our owner and manager Mary Banina is a member of Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau, National Hearing Aid Society, Indiana Hearing Aid Society, and also past president of American Business Womens Association. The charities and organizations supported by Merrillville Hearing Unlimited are F.O.P., American Heart Association, St. Labre Indian School, American Lung Association, Police League of Indiana and Indiana Hearing Aid Specialists Society.

We never charge for office service, whether it be the changing of tubes, cleaning molds, cleaning contacts or battery compartments, replacing nubbins and adjustments - regardless of where you bought your aid, or how long ago.

There are a lot more young people affected with hearing losses now than ever before. People who have "nerve loss" may have this type loss for 5 to 10 years without admitting it. They accuse everyone else of not speaking plain enough, or turning away from them as they speak, they have become an automatic lip reader without realizing it.

Trust in us and we will help you in every possible way.



DR. JOHN J. BOTSKO SAYS....

"THANK YOU"

Entering his 15th Year in Business

Dr. John J. Botsko, Merrillville's first chiropractor, celebrates the beginning of his fifteenth year in Merrillville.

I wish to thank all my patients for making these past fourteen years happy and fulfilling. Along with Merrillville, I look forward to the future, with our Lord's help, with great hope and anticipation.

I invite any person who has a condition that has not responded to other healing methods to call our office. I will be happy to discuss your condition with you to see if I can help you.

I will tell you honestly if you are a Chiropractic case.

Our office is fully equipped to give you the best chiropractic care in the entire area. For the past eight years we have been using the great work of Dr. James Cox called "Cox Flexion Distraction Manipulation".

Chiropractic especially works on all back problems, headaches, and nervousness.

"WHY SUFFER?"

REMEMBER, ONLY A CHIROPRACTOR CAN TELL YOU IF YOU'RE A CHIROPRACTIC

DR. JOHN J. BOTSKO

MERRILLVILLE'S FIRST CHIROPRACTOR

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Service sector rises to replace industry

By Colleen Lynch

Come the Year 2000, I see Merrillville, along with a greater part of Northwest Indiana, seated largely in the service industry -- providing a host of services for others.

As Promotions Manager for the Holiday Star Theatre, my work is tied to the service industry. A whopping one-half million people visit Holiday Star Plaza each year, trading money in exchange for lodging, meals, show performances, etc. Yet those one-half million visitors are only a portion of the total number of people traveling through, dropping in and stepping out in Merrillville during a given year.

With Merrillville's prime crossroads location, and America's baby boomers coming of middle age, the Year 2000 will mean the meeting of increased discretionary income with a rapidly growing service industry.

Colleen Lynch

Southlake Mall, Century Consumer Mall, General Cinemas, restaurants, hotels and service stations are other businesses that draw in a great many people.

With Merrillville's prime crossroads location, and America's baby boomers coming of middle age, the Year 2000 will mean the meeting of increased discretionary income with a rapidly growing service industry.

Service industry jobs will be crucial to Northwest Indiana's unskilled labor market left vacated by the declining steel industry. Creating opportunities where, previously, there were none is what 2000 will bring us. And things are rolling along in that direction already. The creation of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau was an important step to Northwest Indiana's growth.

The LCCVB was designed to look at our county's location, view the possibilities and then create opportunities from what it saw -- even create opportunities where none existed before!

The LCCVB embraces our location, as should we all. We should develop more positive attitudes about the area we live in, then welcome all visitors that choose to visit Merrillville...for whatever reason. By the year 2000, I think more of us will recognize the importance of doing so.

Colleen Lynch is a marketing director for Holiday Star.

We've Moved!

BETTER LOCATION... FOR BETTER SERVICE.

Rearick's Inc. has moved from 850 Washington St. to a new and better store front location at 6521 Broadway, Merrillville. We feel this will be more convenient to serve you. Our phone numbers at the new location are 769-6411 or 886-9203, which will be answered on a 24 hour basis.

Pictured above (from L to R): Walt Rearick, Carl Rearick, Lorraine Rearick, Carol Eates, Jim Rearick and Dave Grove.

Carl Rearick, owner and manager of Rearick's Inc. says this is a family owned and operated business since its inception in 1937. We now have seven present employees. We support our community food basket programs and catholic charities.

We have a complete line of heating, cooling and humidification equipment. Also, a complete line of kitchen cabinets and custom made counter tops. We have on display at our store at 6521 Broadway, furnaces, air conditioners, water heaters and kitchen cabinets.

We service all makes and models for residential and commercial use. We maintain a large parts inventory. We sell and install water heaters and electronic air cleaners. We provide same day heat on furnace replacements. We pride ourselves on prompt and courteous service to all of our customers.

Rearick's Inc. 769-6411 or 886-9203

6521 Broadway - Merrillville

8120 Georgia St., Merrillville, IN 46410.

Front to back: Carole Gee, Debra Brewer, Sharon Beavers.

DREAM IT... Do it!

IN ONLY 6 to 12 months at...

Left to right: Alisa Hafner, Kim Jurgensen.

Davenport College

Located on Georgia St., across U.S. 30 from the Holiday Inn Plaza, Davenport College will provide the source of qualified labor necessary to meet the employment needs of existing area businesses as well as those of firms which our community leaders are trying to convince to locate here.

Davenport provides quality business education followed by employment assistance, which has been a successful combination of Davenport College for many years.

The Southlake facility is designed to offer students the opportunity to learn marketable skills in an atmosphere conducive to learning. Modern equipment which represents the current trends in office productivity will be used to train students in three career fields: secretarial, accounting and medical assisting. Morning, afternoon and evening classes will be conducted to enable students to achieve their educational goals without disrupting their current schedules.

Davenport College—Southlake Branch now has 156 full-time students, and their first class will graduate March 28, 1986.

HISTORY

Davenport College of Business and its antecedents have a history dating back to 1866. Throughout more than 100 years of service its fundamental purpose has been to provide training and education for careers in business.

In 1910 M.E. Davenport became associated with what today is Davenport College.

Mr. Davenport was a pioneer in developing programs of "practical education" which combined subject matter that had cultural values with studies that prepared graduates for specific employment opportunities. The objective was to produce graduates with specialized education and the background to grow into positions of responsibility. "Make a living — Make a life — Make a contribution" became the motto of the institution.

Since 1945 Davenport evolved from a proprietary organization with a small, downtown facility to a non-profit, two year educational institution governed by a public board of trustees, with a modern campus in a setting conveniently located near the downtown business community. In March 1976, the College received accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

MISSION STATEMENT

The fundamental purpose of Davenport College of Business is to provide specialized vocational training for rewarding careers in business.

Realizing that the goal of the student is to obtain employment through specialized education, Davenport College is committed to maintaining the proper blend of educational and business atmospheres so the student can develop marketable skills in as short a period of time as possible.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Davenport College — Southlake Branch promotes many types of student events. Holiday celebrations, student socials, and graduation exercises are all part of the social atmosphere at Davenport College.

ACCREDITATIONS

Davenport College — Southlake Branch is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the Accrediting Commission of the Association of Independent Colleges and Schools, an organization recognized by the United States Department of Education as the nationally recognized accrediting agency for independent colleges and schools of business.

FACILITIES

The Southlake Branch of Davenport College is centrally located to allow convenient, easy access from all areas in the Northwest corner of Indiana. Students from Gary, Merrillville, Crown Point, Valparaiso, LaPorte, Michigan City and other Indiana communities can follow well-known traffic arteries leading directly to the College which is located at the intersection of Interstate 65 and U.S. 30, directly across from the Holiday Inn. Ample on-site parking adds to the convenience of attending Davenport College.

The facility is designed to enable the student to learn in a business-like setting and it is this blend of educational and business atmospheres that is most responsible for Davenport students developing self confidence in their ability to be productive members of the business world immediately upon graduation.

Modern office equipment, such as IBM equipment, is another reason why the educational experience at Davenport College is so valuable. Students are exposed to simulated office situations and learn to be efficient employees by using equipment reflecting the most recent technology in office productivity.

GRADUATION

Students who successfully complete any program at Davenport College—Southlake Branch will have earned credit toward an Associate Degree and can elect to pursue that credential at the Grand Rapids, Lansing or Kalamazoo campuses of Davenport College.

JOB PLACEMENT

Davenport College — Southlake Branch maintains a Placement Service for all graduates of the College. This is a unique and outstanding service in which graduates receive placement assistance at no additional cost to the graduate or the employer. The Placement Service has three distinct functions. First, it maintains contact with members of the business community and ascertains first hand the needs of business and professional organizations.

Second, it is vitally interested in student counseling and guidance. Business attitudes, business ethics, etiquette and office procedure are carefully explained and emphasized. The Service exercises a tremendous influence in causing students to appreciate the importance of thoroughness, accuracy, industry and reliability.

In the fall of 1985, Davenport College opened its new Southlake Branch in Merrillville, Indiana and extended its educational services to the communities in the northwest corner of the state. Students in the Southlake area now have the opportunity to prepare themselves to seize employment opportunities through the development of marketable skills in short, intensive training programs. Graduates can enter the job market confident that they will be productive employees in their chosen career fields.

Job Placement

At Davenport it isn't enough to educate you. Helping you with the next step — finding meaningful employment — is a commitment we take very seriously. No wonder our job placement rate is so high.

Davenport has consistently had a graduate job placement rate of 95% to 99% each year. Over 90% of Davenport graduates have jobs related to their major. That figure compares to a national average of 60%.

Davenport's job placement service is available at no additional cost to you...not only at graduation, but for your entire lifetime.

Davenport believes that education is a lifelong process. That's why our graduates may return to Davenport and brush up on any class they originally completed...no matter how many years have elapsed. Again, this service is yours at no additional cost.

It's all part of Davenport College's commitment to preparing you for the world of business.

Davenport students aren't just dreaming of finding exciting careers...they're DOING it!

Davenport College
Southlake Branch
8120 GEORGIA ST. • MERRILLVILLE, IN 46410
(219) 769-5556

'Cashless society' envisioned by bank exec

By Mike McIntyre

The year 2000 evokes images of ultra-modern buildings and "Star-Wars" type vehicles, new designs and concepts of modern life envisioned by science fiction authors; and yet, while some of those concepts seem a little far-fetched, I believe that we are in for some technological and scientific changes in the next 14 years which could defy imagination.

We were asked in this project to provide some thoughts about the year 2000 and where we see Merrillville at that time. Specifically, we were asked to touch on areas of interest to "stimulate discussion and spark the imaginations of your fellow townspeople" on a variety of topics. Here then, are my "predictions" or forecasts for Merrillville at the year 2000 - and I emphasize "Predictions".

I see a new town hall for the town of Merrillville-Bill Kurtis will see his dream come true, hopefully well before the year 2000.

In education, I see a return soon to the basics- emphasis and re-emphasis on Reading, Writing & Arithmetic; with continued emphasis on basic reading and grammar and spelling skills. Of course, the sciences and mathematics with more computer technology and training will continue to be extremely important. The school systems will continue to concentrate on "Excellence" in education. If "common sense" or "pride in your work" can be taught, I think it would be an invaluable asset to young adults emerging into the "real life" business world.

"A Disney World of the Midwest? The advantage of this area would be the benefits which offer all four seasons-something even Disney can't offer."

New innovations in banking will continue to revolutionize the industry as we move rapidly to a cashless society. By the year 2000, except point-of-sales terminals virtually everywhere. Purchases will be instantly deducted from your bank accounts as stores will be on-line to your accounts.

Banks are now experimenting with transactional systems (electronic shopping outlets) offering a multitude of products without ever having to leave the comforts of your own home. CompuCard, boasting over 1.5 million subscribers already, are at the forefront on the new home shopping experiments. At present, many services offer work with personal computers; others require a special box attached to the television set.

Much of our banking services will be offered the same way. Computer technology and robotics will contribute heavily to the bank of the future which will concentrate heavily on machines. Experiments are now being conducted in affluent areas of metropolitan areas with the totally automated bank. This is basically geared to your upscale "yuppified" customer, but could become a reality more and more between now and the turn of the century.

By the year 2000, I expect that the number of commercial banks to be whittled down 90 percent from the present 14,000 + banks to maybe 1,400, as large regional banks across the country continue making acquisitions and interstate banking laws continue to change.

Looking more down the road for Merrillville itself, I envision Merrillville to become a giant entertainment center - expanding on its already famed reputation. Tourism will become one of its top industries. With the support of the Merrillville Chamber of Commerce (already over 400 members strong and rapidly becoming one of the premier chambers in the Midwest), Merrillville will attract people from all over the country, to be wined, dined and entertained in style.

I predict that Northwest Indiana will be asked to be the host area for a Regional Jetport to handle the overflow from O'Hare Airport. Surveys and feasibility studies are being conducted now.

Finally, a question-Why couldn't the area (Lake County-Dunes Area) become a giant recreational/entertainment center rivaling Disney World? A Disney World of the Midwest? The Region would be ideal location-wise for a complex of this sort, as population centers of over 21 million people live within a one-day's drive, not to count all the additional population from nearby states. The advantage of this area for a complex of this sort would be the benefits which offer all four seasons - something even Disney can't offer. The possibilities are endless!

These are my various conjectures to the question. Whatever the actual outcomes, I, along with others are optimistic about the future here and excited about what's to come in the year 2000!

-Mike McIntyre is a Vice-President with the Bank of Indiana as well as president of the Merri-Glen Kiwanis and a director for the Chamber of Commerce.

The Future of Merrillville

Town like a Buck Rogers movie

By Walter Catlow

As one who has spent a lifetime in Merrillville, I want to say that I have always been proud of my community.

Going back to starting first grade in what is now the Town Hall to graduating from High School in what at that time was the largest class (23 people). As a mainly farm community in the 20's and 30's (U.S. 30 was a gravel road and the Airport at the corner of what is now State Road 55 and 330 had airplanes that had tail skids) I have seen tremendous growth.

Our population doubled every ten years until 1980. The "Rust Belt" as the media described us in the Midwest Great Lakes States, really started rusting in the late 70's and early 80's.

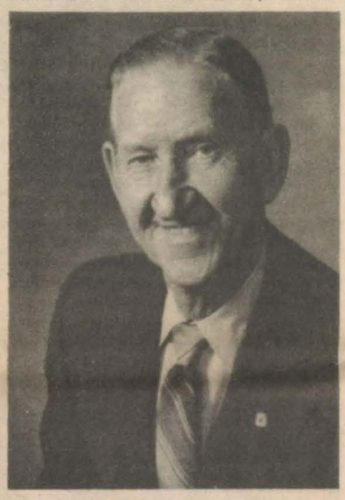
With all the problems, Indiana fared better than some of the surrounding states.

Merrillville and Ross Township fared much better than its surrounding communities. In my tenure, we have seen our assessed value go from 40 million dollars to 145 million dollars. We are currently having a mild building boom.

One disappointment that I have is that we have never been able to develop a better industrial base, such as Frankfort, IN, which would create more jobs producing things.

I still envision Ross Township as the commercial and cultural center of Northwest Indiana. Some day as you come over the bridge on I-65 heading north, when you see Merrillville it will look like a city in Buck Rogers, the 25th century.

-Walter Catlow is the Ross Township Assessor.



Pictured above is CHUCK ERDELAC, DISTRICT MANAGER, and KENT OWENS, SHOP MANAGER.

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Our patients use Prompt Medical Care as they do an emergency room. When their doctor is not available or for continuing health care if they do not have a family physician.

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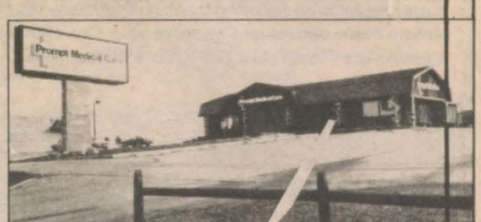
Sat.-8 a.m.-6 p.m.	Sat. 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Closed Holidays and Sundays	Sun.-10 a.m.-6 p.m.
	All Holidays 10 a.m.-6 p.m.



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Transportation plan one key to growth

By Mabel Gemeinhart and Jim Dimitri

Working closely with the Town Government has given us the opportunity to watch the growth of Merrillville firsthand.

From the farm community of not too many years ago, to an exciting and viable town, Merrillville has indeed indicated progress in a very short period.

The initial growth of Merrillville started with the white exodus from Gary who were seeking a suburban type of living. It has since grown into a wonderful community to live and raise a family.

It has great schools, public and private, churches of all denominations, a large modern hospital and plenty of shopping and eating areas.

A short span of a few years ago, 61st Avenue and Broadway changed from what was once just an area housing a small airport and a childrens' amusement park to two shopping centers. Areas which once were corn fields now contain the Holiday Inn Resort Center on Route 30 which provide entertainment and attract people from many miles away.

This is just an example of the rapid growth of Merrillville which is now the largest town in Indiana in both population (27,977) and area (31 square miles) and boasts the lowest tax rate in Lake County. Because of the I-65 Route 30 corridor, Merrillville becomes easily accessible to all Lake County and outlying communities, and with its existing businesses make it an inviting area for all.

"The foundation of any community is its people. To grow and prosper, Merrillville will need to make the next generation want to work here as well as live here."

Merrillville's future looks bright with the continuing construction and anticipated building, such as the 25 million dollar project slated for 73rd Avenue, east of Taft Street.

It is believed by us that in the not too distant future, Merrillville will change its status from a town to a city with emphasis on residential, office and research and light industry as its primary construction areas. With these programs as the targets for area builders and with the low tax rate and tax abatement, corporations will be attracted to Merrillville, thus creating additonal employment for the community. Residents will no longer have to commute to Chicago and other areas for employment. With this added employment local transportation facilities would be added as yet another asset to the community.

The foundation of any community is its people. To grow and prosper, Merrillville will need to make the next generation want to work as well as live here.

By the year 2000, we forcast that Merrillville will continue to grow and expand. A master thoroughfare plan will be implemented thus creating additional much needed cross town arteries. Merrillville will continue to be the hub of Lake County and all of Northwest Indiana with its outstanding shopping areas, medical facilities and office areas.

By the year 2000, Merrillville will have greatly progressed into the plan to conquer the storm water problems and along with that a single sanitary system will prevail to accommodate the entire area. The community throughout will be blessed with additional street lights, curbs and sidewalks. A much needed Town Hall complex will be constructed to replace the old school building which now contains the offices of town government, that building will then be classified as a historic site.

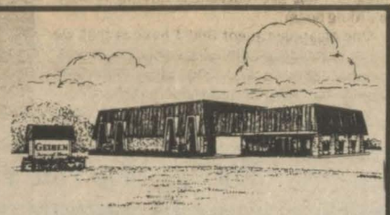
For a community as young as Merrillville, and even with some of its growing pains, it appears that someone, somewhere with the wisdom of Solomon, is guiding and will guide the town with its progress and greatness.

-Mabel Gemeinhart is the Asst. Planning and Building Director and Jim Dimitri serves the town as Administrative Asst.

Mable Gemeinhart and Jim Dimitri

Our Aim

To walk in the way of honor,
to serve in the light of truth,
to believe in the life of love . . . this . . .
The creed of our organization
in our continuing desire to be of service.



7905 BROADWAY - MERRILLVILLE

GEISEN FUNERAL HOME, Inc.
"Four Generations of Dependable Service"

109 N. EAST STREET - CROWN POINT

The Geisen Mortuaries we know today are certainly a far cry from the original "Geisen's Furniture and Undertaking" parlor, located in Crown Point, IN. The original parlor was founded in 1867 by Peter Geisen, a cabinet maker who combined a furniture store and funeral business and made his own caskets.

In 1895, Peter's son, F. Charles Geisen, joined the business as one of the first licensed embalmers in the state. He received License #32, the first in Lake County. In 1929, father and son built their first funeral home next to the family residence at 109 N. East Street.

The third generation of Geisens entered the mortuary business in 1932 when Charles' son Herbert, and his wife Edna, graduated from Askin College of Embalming in Indianapolis. They opened a second Geisen Funeral Home at 3805 Adams Street in Gary.

The following year, a second son of Charles, Ralph, joined his father at the Crown Point location, followed some time later by still another son, Norbert.

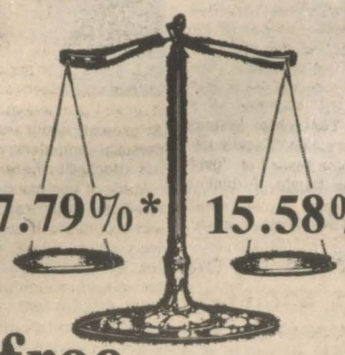
By 1958, Ralph's son, Robert had joined the Crown Point firm, while Herbert and Edna's son, William, graduated from embalming school and entered the Gary branch. That same year the Geisens purchased the property at 79th and Broadway in Merrillville. In anticipation of opening the family's third funeral home which was opened in 1974.

Norbert Geisen is the president of the Merrillville funeral home and William C. Geisen is secretary treasurer, Robert Geisen is president of the Crown Point Funeral Home.

109 N. East Street
Crown Point

GEISEN FUNERAL HOMES, Inc.
"Four Generations of Dependable Service"

7905 Broadway
Merrillville



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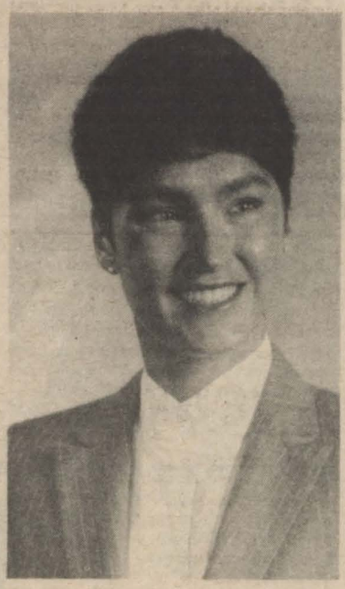
Team effort means success

By Sandra J. Snearly



Welcome to the town of progress -- Merrillville, Indiana.

Watch as new businesses make their homes within its boundaries; while existing businesses expand and relocate within those same boundaries. Merrillville is ever growing. What can all this progress be attributable to?

How will it affect Merrillville in the year 2000?

The progress of this town is a result of many factors such as easy accessibility, people support, business incentives, programs for business development; the list goes on and on.

I'd like to elaborate on two of the most obvious attributes of Merrillville. To start with, the location is ideal. Merrillville is nestled between Chicago and Indianapolis -- what convenience.

These two large metropolises bleed their business into this town. And why not? Because of area expressways, accessibility to the town is easy. Once they're here, there's easy access to the resources needed for business as well as personal survival and growth -- Merrillville has it all! Merrillville has the products, professional services, promotional media, banking facilities and a network of business consultants and developers.

What makes the town's resources saleable are its people. This leads me to the second attribute of Merrillville -- people support.

I can speak on behalf of myself and my own personal experiences with the business people of Merrillville. They are warm, promoters of personal and business development, encouragers of networking and dedicated supporters. I, being a relatively new business owner in Merrillville, can't emphasize enough how important these qualities in people are in relation to the success of a great business community.

Next time you're driving on Broadway -- South of US 30, on 80th Place --West of Broadway, and on US 30 -- East of Interstate 65 observe the new development coming to the town of Merrillville. Vacant land is becoming more scarce and business is booming.

For example, the stretch on the north side of 80th Place between Broadway and Madison will become totally developed within one year -- what progress. Approximately 75 percent of that stretch was vacant land less than one year ago. Now, stop your car, get out and ask the owners of some of Merrillville's new businesses why they have chosen this town for their site. I'm sure some of those attributes just discussed will be mentioned.

How will all this affect the town of Merrillville in the year 2000? The outcome of business growth in this town will be two-fold. On the positive side, additional jobs will become available to the people in the community. Having those much needed businesses in the area will make purchasing products and services more convenient for the community.

The quality of living will improve because Merrillville will attract a larger variety of educated individuals. And the town's network will be ever growing which will attract an even greater variety of businesses and people to the community.

Because of this, the main concern I would have is the planning for the flow of traffic thru the town of Merrillville. It is evident that the town and its people are currently improving problem areas by widening streets, installing traffic lights and rerouting traffic around potentially dangerous areas. But this still remains a concern of mine by the year 2000 because of the volume of traffic which increases every year.

With all this in mind, I'd like to conclude that Merrillville is a very progressive, go forward kind of town. The businesses it attracts as well as the people will continue to make Merrillville even more successful in the future.

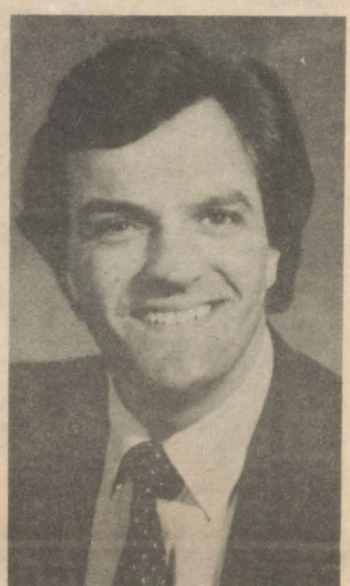
With a team effort like that how can you lose? There's no way!

The Chicago Bears couldn't!

--Sandi Snearly is an active civic leader and a partner in the accounting firm Kratt and Co.

See industrialization needs for area

By John Bushemi



It is a privilege to share my vision of Merrillville in the year 2000 as part of the annual business progress edition of The Herald Newspapers.

Merrillville's past showed that it was important during the 19th century, when it served as a stop along the east-west wagon trails of mid-America. Merrillville was then and is today a rolling land which includes meandering Turkey Creek and Deep River. Many of our old homesteads, farms and schoolhouses still provide historical landmarks reminding us of our town's past.

A sign of Merrillville's transition to the present was its official establishment as a town in 1971. Our town now encompasses 31 square miles and is the largest town in Indiana as far as population. As with any good community, our greatest resource is the people who inhabit Merrillville, including the older families of Ross Township and the newer families of our many ethnic groups.

I have high hopes for our town's future. Partially anchored at the intersection of Interstate 65 and U.S. 30, Merrillville is in many respects the crossroads of Northwest Indiana business and commerce. Professional service to prosper.

Entertainment and leisure activities will grow. A light, clean industrial base will provide the diversification needed for the future.

Merrillville's future will be bright. I hope to have the opportunity to continue as part of it.

-John Bushemi is an Indiana State Senator representing Merrillville.

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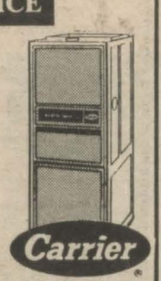

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We Can Help Plan Your Vacation

Pictured above, Dominic Pampalone (standing), and office manager Jamie Banashak. All travel counselors at the Merrillville Branch have earned their C.T.C's - Which is rare to find.

Pampalone's Travel Express is located at 6701 Broadway, Merrillville. 1986 marks their 16th year in making travel arrangements.

Dominic Pampalone, CTC (Certified Travel Consultant) and owner, along with Jamie Banashak, CTC, office manager and Kathy Sonaty, CTC, would be more than happy to help you plan your next trip to wherever.*

Computerized with United's Apollo computer system, we can obtain up-to-date accurate, fare information and quick, easy access to flight schedules for making travel arrangements, from the Tri-State to O'Hare, Amtrak, Air Reservations, Hotel Reservations, Weekend Getaways, Honeymoon packages, Cruises, Independent Travel and Group Charters AND we can also provide Passport and Visa applications, trip cancellations and baggage insurance and foreign currency exchange - All these services are at NO Charge to You. So let the experts at **PAMPALONE'S TRAVEL EXPRESS GET YOU WHERE YOU WANT TO GO.** Stop in or give us a call at 769-8448. Look for our sign on Broadway at 67th Ave.

*Cindy Hanson, our outside Sales Agent is also available to help make your travel arrangements in the comfort of your own home.

Take care of the young, student demands

By Stacy L. Lawrence

In recent years, drunk driving among teenagers and problems with substance use and abuse have escalated.

As an active member of SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving), I would like to see Merrillville provide its young people with an alternate choice to attending alcohol parties because of the lack of other weekend social gathering places.

Merrillville needs to progress recreationally to meet the needs and interests of the young adults in our town. Young people develop new ideas and attitudes that can change the process of a town. The high school students of the 1980's will be the leaders of the 2000's. Hence, Merrillville must be sure that it provides a good environment for the young people, who are the building blocks of the future.

By the year 2000, I see our town offering its young people opportunities to allocate their idle time in a way that would benfit themselves physically and mentally for the future and for the good of the community.

I feel that facilities and activities are necessary to motivate and challenge the minds and bodies of the young, rather than have them resort to drugs and alcohol use for lack of other recreation.

One step toward reaching this goal might be to build a sports complex with swimming pool, tennis courts, a running track and equipment for a variety of other sports. This complex should offer a club house for social gatherings and be geared for the students' use on weekends. Such a facility would provide an inexpensive alternative to drinking, plus create many jobs for high school students.

Perhaps our politicians can obtain federal and state funds to finance projects such as this. Perhaps Merrillville's service organizations and businesses could become more involved in their support of the community.

Not too many years ago a sports facility was built in the southern part of Merrillville. This outdoor complex consists of six baseball fields that were constructed over a number of acres of land purchased, developed and maintained by dedicated parents with the support of a small number of businesses. This project alone takes hundreds of participating boys and girls off the streets during the months of summer vacation.

I feel that facilities and activities are necessary to motivate and challenge the minds and bodies of the young, rather than have them resort to drugs and alcohol use for lack of other recreation.

Stacy L. Lawrence is a student at Merrillville High School.

A city in less than 14 years?

By Albert Wirtes

It's hard to believe that the year 2000 is just 14 short years down the road. When I stop to realize I am beginning my 11th year on the Merrillville Town Board, I can try to visualize what can be accomplished in the next 14 years.

By the year 2000, I see Merrillville growing to approximately 40,000 people. Most of this growth occurring south of U.S. 30. Our traffic problems won't be eliminated but will be relieved by the completion of the U.S. 30 bypass on 93rd Avenue.

Our commercial corridors will be completely developed and we will have attracted several "high-tech" light industries in the area east of I-65 and south of U.S. 30.

Our Police and Street departments will keep pace with the growth, as well as our Emergency Medical Services and School systems. I see all the sewer districts in the Town consolidating into a single Sanitary District.

A new municipal facility should be constructed and functioning by the year 2000. The Town Board will continue to act in a responsible manner regarding growth and fiscal matters.

Since incorporating in 1971, The Town of Merrillville has successfully brought together a group of sub-divisions, developments, and areas into one entity in which there is an extreme amount of pride. The growth patterns have been controlled to conform to a Master Plan.

Al Wirtes is the current Town Board president

Municipal services such as Police protection, Streets, Drainage, Emergency Medical Services and Street Lighting have been provided and improved steadily each year without overburdening the citizens with excessive tax increases.

I expect before the year 2000, politicians will be attempting to convince the citizens of the advantages to become a City. I predict the 1st referendum will fail and the 2nd one will be successful.

The City of Merrillville will probably be a reality by the year 2000.

Front row, left to right: Marc Antich, Jim Purvis, Helen Guzorek, Jim Wayco, Scott Mihal.
Back row, left to right: Ron Wayco, Bob Ashley and Corey Smith.

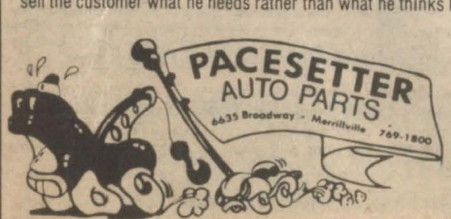
PACESETTER AUTO PARTS

One of the best stocked auto parts stores in Northwest Indiana is PACESETTER AUTO PARTS. We are located at 6635 Broadway, Merrillville. Our phone number is 769-1800. We were founded in 1975 and now have 10 reliable employees working for us.

The owner, Jim Wayco, who is a member of Chamber of Commerce and supports Merrillville High School and the F.O.P., will be on hand to give **Professional** advice and assistance to customers. Pacesetter handles close to 20,000 separate part numbers in stock.

Pacesetter Auto Parts supplies quality auto parts and accessories to do-it-yourself and professional mechanics, also garages. Inventory consists of a vast array of original equipment, brand names and generic brands. We like to give the customer a choice while still maintaining our image of handling quality merchandise.

We will, at times, spend more time not selling a part than selling one. We try to sell the customer what he needs rather than what he thinks he needs.



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MERRILLVILLE

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PICTURED ABOVE ARE ALL OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Rev. John R. Whitley, C.S.B., Principal, along with Sister Christopher, SS.C.M., Rev. Robert Glass, C.S.B., Assistant Principals want us to know that Andrean High School provides the youth of the area a unique opportunity which combines high quality academic instruction with religious faith and values.

The school, which is located at 5959 Broadway, prepares today's young people for the immense challenges of tomorrow's world. It encourages young people to use their individual gifts from God to build a better life for themselves and for their community.

The school was founded in 1959 and has 95 employees at this time. This school has a tradition of excellence, enabling students to acquire a solid command of knowledge and skills in essential fields of learning. An Andrean education combines faith with living and learning -- a great source of hope in today's troubled and changing world. If you have any questions or inquiries concerning our school, please call us at 887-5281. Our staff are eager to help in any way possible.

Four students, all present seniors, have been named National Merit Semifinalists, placing them in the top one half of one percent of all the students in the nation. Another student was named an Achievment Semifinalist and fourteen received letters of commendation from the National Merit Corporation.

Entrance Tests for incoming students will be given at Andrean on Saturday, February 15, 1986 at 9:00 a.m. Call the school anytime for details.

ENTRANCE EXAM FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN

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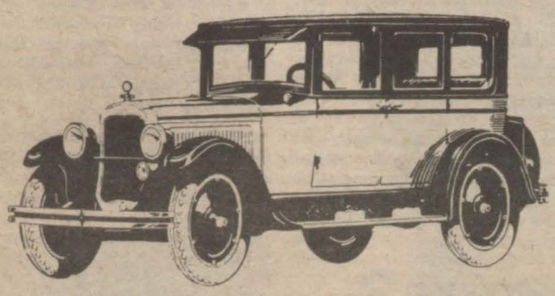

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Standard Coach	950	DeLuxe Coach	1040
Standard Sedan	1025	DeLuxe Sedan	1115

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An advertisement for the old, although then new, Lennertz automobile dealership, the oldest existing business in Merrillville. Think we could talk them into honoring those prices?

The more things change...

from page 1

the land was to change forever. Setting up housekeeping off 73rd Ave. just east of Broadway, Wiggins moved easily among the Indian tribes, speaking their language and quickly learning their customs. he first approached the inquisitive tribes and introduced them to farming.

Wiggins disappeared a year later, never to be heard from again, but not before plowing up the ancient burial ground of the Indians. It was said that traveling groups of Indians would stop at the site and cry and pray for days at the blasphemy to their sacred place. But no violence is known to have occurred.

Wiggins Point, as it was known, then became Centerville, and the white settlers began arriving with regularity. The Pierces, the Mundells, the Demmons, the Zuvers, the Palmers, the Saxtons--the list goes on and on.

By the mid 1800's, Merrillville, so named after the Merrill brothers Dudley and Frank by the C&O railroad, was a major point of interest to settlers heading further west. Farming, started by Wiggins, had been the bread and butter industry, but the California Exchange Hotel was what passersby remembered most about Merrillville.

According to **The Pictoral History of Merrillville,** the exchange hotel was started by Myiel Pierce who saw the need to service travelers en route to the western states, Chicago, and other points of interest. It was a six day journey from Michigan City to Chicago then, and places to stay that were clean, dry, and safe from ambush by (renegade whites) were necessary to ensure a good trip.

The hotel was originally the first house "in town" and had rooms, a place to bathe, a bar, as well as a place where locals could meet with travelers and discuss the events of the time. The hotel was as much for the use of the townsmen as passersby.

At about that same time, Merrillville was known for its spirits, and they weren't the type resting in the Indian graveyard or the school fight song. Distilleries abounded in and around Merrillville and the stuff was rumored to be among the best and most potent north of Kentucky. Temperance groups would later target the town as a major protest point in their fight against the 'Demon Rum.'

The Old Mill, as it is now known, also served the travel industry, as it were, after conversion from a distillery. The restaurant became famous for Friday night fish frys, and other gourmet delights that again attracted many locals.

Soon, the C&O Railroad began dropping off passengers as well as mail and goods in Merrillville, increasing the traffic flow and the need for businesses to cater to the weary easterners. Various restaurants, and later with the advent of the auto, service stations, hotels, and other service related businesses.

In the late 1960's, it became evident to many area economy watchers that Merrillville was to typify the "new economy", or a service related base. The construction of US 30 years earlier and since widened twice, and I-65, both near Broadway, lended itself to one of the largest building booms ever in Indiana. That continues today. Two major indoor malls, strip malls by the dozen, restaurants by the score, and hundreds of other service businesses sprang from the ground as developers tried to keep pace with the growing needs of a town fueled by cash and ideas.

Those scores of restaurants along with dozens more bars, clubs, concert venues, movie houses, and other conveniences have since made Merrillville the undisputed entertainment capital of all Northwest Indiana.

Much the same way the Indians viewed it in 1750.

The more things change--well, you know the rest.

MERRILLVILLE TRAIN STATION

One of the many courses available at Commonwealth Business College is Automated Accounting...

◄Pictured at left is Ianita Byrd instructing Eleanor Naglosky and Dawn Bowman on general ledger, accounts receivable, accounts payable and payroll transactions. Below ▼ is Pat Christoff and Ed Flores working together on an assignment.

COMMONWEALTH BUSINESS COLLEGE, located at 8400 Louisiana St. has been in existence since the 1890's, serving the area through business training. We are the only college of our type to offer an associate degree. Classes are small so the students get individualized attention. Students are trained with positive mental attitude being a catalyst in their success, also on dress and business etiquette.

We have memberships in Chamber of Commerce, Lakeshore B.P.W., and Napoleon Hill Foundation. Charities and organizations supported are American Cancer Society and Napoleon Hill Foundation for motivational lecturing - Our president is one of the speakers on the national circuit.

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AC0138

Therapists: Dennis Bewyer, Pat Tunberg, patient Agatha Crouch.

The Bewyer Physical Therapy, P.C. out-patient physical therapy clinic plans to continue its growth and development. The past 6 years have brought a move to a larger facility, as well as an increase in professional staff. Along these lines, we wish to announce that Patricia Tunberg, M.S., P.T. will now assume daily office hours at Bewyer Physical Therapy and become Director of Physical Therapy.

Mrs. Tunberg has been associated with Bewyer Physical Therapy for the past 2 years, but with only limited office hours. She has recently been the Supervisor of Physical Therapy at Rehabilitation Services of Chicago, an out-patient head trauma facility. She is also a consultant at St. Margaret Hospital in their New Born Intensive Care Unit and she conducts a weekly follow-up Clinic for out-patient infants. As Director of Physical Therapy at Bewyer Physical Therapy, she will supervise the Clinic and continue as a St. Margaret consultant. Her caseload at Bewyer Physical Therapy will include orthopedic and neurologic conditions.

Dennis Bewyer, P.T., President of Bewyer Physical Therapy, will continue to have office hours for the treatment of head, neck, and jaw disorders. He will also continue as Clinical Director for the T.M.J. Clinic at St. Margaret Hospital.

bpt

BEWYER PHYSICAL THERAPY
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
DENNIS BEWYER, P.T.
PATRICIA TUNBERG, M.S., P.T.
ANNETTE de CAMARA, P.T.

Rooda offers finite predictions for year 2000 here

By John W. Rooda

I look forward to living in Merrillville in the year 2000. By that time my young sons will have steadily matured into quality young men if my family has put forth the necessary effort and maintained a positive attitude. Similarly, Merrillville/Ross Township will have matured and improved with steady growth if our residents are willing to put forth positive effort.

I'll describe our community as I envision it in 14 years, with emphasis on residential, economic, governmental and educational conditions.

RESIDENTIAL - Merrillville has grown to approximately 50,000 residents, with stable growth throughout the 1990's replacing the rapid growth of the 1960's and early 1970's. Nearly half of former unincorporated Ross Township is included in Merrillville following a late 1980's attempt by Hobart to annex the area. Due to the significantly lower Merrillville tax rate, over 75 percent of our new residents petitioned the town for incorporation.

Merrillville remains a preferred residential community, offering a safe environment, convenient location and neighbors who still believe in the work ethic.

ECONOMIC - Merrillville continues to be the commercial/professional center for all Northwest Indiana. The 1990's were a period of steady growth after the relatively slow period experienced in the 1980's. The improvement has resulted from: 1) diversification of the Merrillville economy by expanding into "high-tech" light industry, and 2) the stabilization of the area's heavy industries following their reorganization during the early and mid 1980's. After "bottoming out" in the mid 1980's, employment in heavy industry has recovered to late 1970's levels, but with a greater concentration of skilled labor. These developments have improved Merrillville employment conditions in both the steel and other heavy industries and the commercial/service/professional areas.

The development of high-tech light industry was accelerated by the construction of a light to medium capacity airport near Merrillville's southern border. Capable of accommodating propeller and small private jet aircraft, this airport has made commercial travel more convenient for local residents by providing low-cost shuttle service to both Chicago and Indianapolis international terminals.

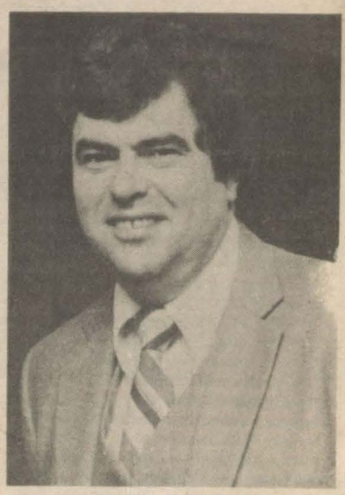
GOVERNMENTAL - Our growth has promoted Merrillville to adopt the Town Manager form of government, with most services coordinated by a professionally-trained Town Manager. A late 1980's referendum rejected the city/mayor form of government, largely due to concerns over the failures of north Lake County cities to address their problems.

Following the federal indictments of Lake County officials in the 1980's, Merrillville achieved a more significant role in Lake County government. Voters from all south Lake County communities rejected the county machine politics that plagued the county during the 1960's, 1970's and early and mid 1980's. Since corruption and mis-management are no longer tolerated, Merrillville's independent government philosophy has spread to all mid and south Lake County communities, resulting in dramatic and positive reforms to the county government structure.

EDUCATION - One of the criteria necessary for community growth hasn't changed from the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's - quality public and parochial school systems. Both Merrillville and Andrean high schools continue to be recognized among the finest secondary educational facilities in the state.

Methodist Hospital Southlake has become Northwest Indiana's medical education center. In conjunction with Indiana University, this teaching hospital educates quality medical professionals and is rapidly becoming one of the leading medical centers in the Midwest.

No one can predict with certainty what Merrillville, Ross Township or anywhere else will be in the year 2000. I don't have a crystal ball or all the answers, but I've been fortunate enough to be directly involved in Merrillville's development for over a decade. I've seen the drive, spirit and determination of our citizens overcome obstacles and make positive things happen. The continuation of these qualities will spur future community growth.



John Rooda is the Ross Twp. Trustee

Progressive in school sports

Who says Merrillville wasn't a progressive community? This girls baseball team from 1931 was one of dozens of women teams in Indiana that participated in what has since become known as a male-only sport. The girls went 4-3 that year. Team members were, front: Ruth Woods, Mildred Kuehl, Georgia Gebhardt, Coach Hauk, Alice Weller, Magdalene Snyder, and G. Forney. Back; Alvarea Waltz, Helen Schults, Mabel Walker, Lola Bothwell, Lillian Klemm and Carmen Pierce.

WAH YUEN RESTAURANT

In Merrillville offers excellent Chinese cuisine as well as exceptional service.

As you walk through the doors, you will be greeted by Christina Evans, and seated in a warm friendly atmosphere.

Wah Yuen offers a wide variety menu featuring Beef, Pork, Fowl and Seafood, prepared in a taste tantalizing oriental style.

Wah Yuen offers a luncheon special for $2.99 which has 12 items to choose from and a dinner special for $5.99 with 8 delicious dinners to choose from. Carry-outs available also.

Inside Wah Yuen's dining area, customers enjoy a delicious variety of food!

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Pictured Above Are: Michael Mezey, Moses Dilts, Andrew Medema and Raymond Lennertz. They are Principals of Banker's Financial Consulting Services, Inc., a registered advisor located in the Gainer Bank Building in Merrillville, IN. They are a team of financial consultants with over 70 years of combined experience in assisting people in the handling of their money and planning their financial future.

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BIBLE BOOK CENTER, INC.

Dean Regier, manager, has been at the store 15 years; Margaret Engstrom, 20 years; Becky McKee, over 20 years; Marilyn McCarty, 11 years; Mrs. and Mr. Regier, owners.

One of the largest church supply centers in Northwest Indiana is Bible Book Center, Inc., located at 3885 Broadway, Gary, Indiana. We are a Christian book store and church supply center. We have the largest selections of Bibles, religious books, gospel records or tapes, and religious gifts in Northwest Indiana. We supply over 200 churches with their Sunday school literature. Our customers come from as far as 50 miles just to shop in our store.

We were founded in 1957 and have a well trained staff of seven employees. Two of our employees have over 20 years of service, one with 11 years and Dean, the manager, over 15 years of service. We belong to Glen Park Merchants Association and would like to be of service to any of you for any church supplies you may need.

Any of our employees will be on hand to answer questions you may have or you may call with inquiries to 884-5377.

3885 BROADWAY **884-5377**

Indiana sand 'burying' Illinois river

Ed Mullady would like nothing better than to see wide levees constructed along the 72 miles of the Kankakee River in Indiana. But wide levees in Indiana would be only an initial step toward restoring Mr. Mullady's own stretch of the river, which happens to be in Illinois.

As editor of The Sportsman's Letter, a magazine devoted to outdoor activities on both the Illinois and Indiana sections of the Kankakee, Mr. Mullady makes a good part of his living from the river. His relationship with the Kankakee has been long and close, and for years he's been its staunch defender.

"Water-quality-wise, the Kankakee is as good as it ever was," he says. "That's probably because there are no big towns right on the river. The biggest problem is with sand washing down from Indiana, which has always had sand. As sand poured in, it buried the rock (on the Illinois river bottom).

"From a fishery standpoint, a rock bottom holds tons of food for fish, while a sand bottom holds absolutely nothing."

When glaciers formed Indiana's part of the Kankakee Valley, they deposited vast amounts of sand from prehistoric beaches, so the Kankakee River in Indiana has always had plenty of sand in its bed. When the river was in its natural state, most of that sand stayed in Indiana; the lazy, meandering river moved too slowly to carry sand particles into Illinois.

But the river began flowing faster in 1893, the year the Indiana Legislature appropriated $60,000 to blast through a limestone ledge at Momence, Ill. The ledge had acted as a natural dam, backing up the river's flood waters into Indiana, and the blasting was considered a progressive means of flood control.

So, too, was the dredging and straightening of the river itself. This project, accomplished with floating steam dredges, was finished about 1915, and Mr. Mullady sees it as the main cause of the sand pile-up in Illinois.

Originally, the bed of the Kankakee in Illinois was mostly rock and gravel.

"The sand started coming down in the mid or late 30's," he says. "I can remember hunting ducks east of Momence years ago--that was in 1939 or 40--and all of a sudden there was a big sand bar in the river. I thought it was great; I went right out and built a duck blind on it. I didn't know it would ruin the fish habitat."

Asked how much sand has washed down, Mr. Mullady said there were "tons," and that whole stretches of the river had been covered by it. In "the last three or four years," sand has begun washing over the dam at Kankakee, Ill., and there are now sand bars and islands in the lower stretch of the river.

Fishing on the Kankakee is still good, according to Mr. Mullady, but he says he worries about the future of the fishery, as well as flood control problems which could be caused by the sand build-up. "If we remove the sand that's in the river now, we're going to create carrying capacity," he says. "The river probably has a third of the carrying capacity it once had in Illinois.

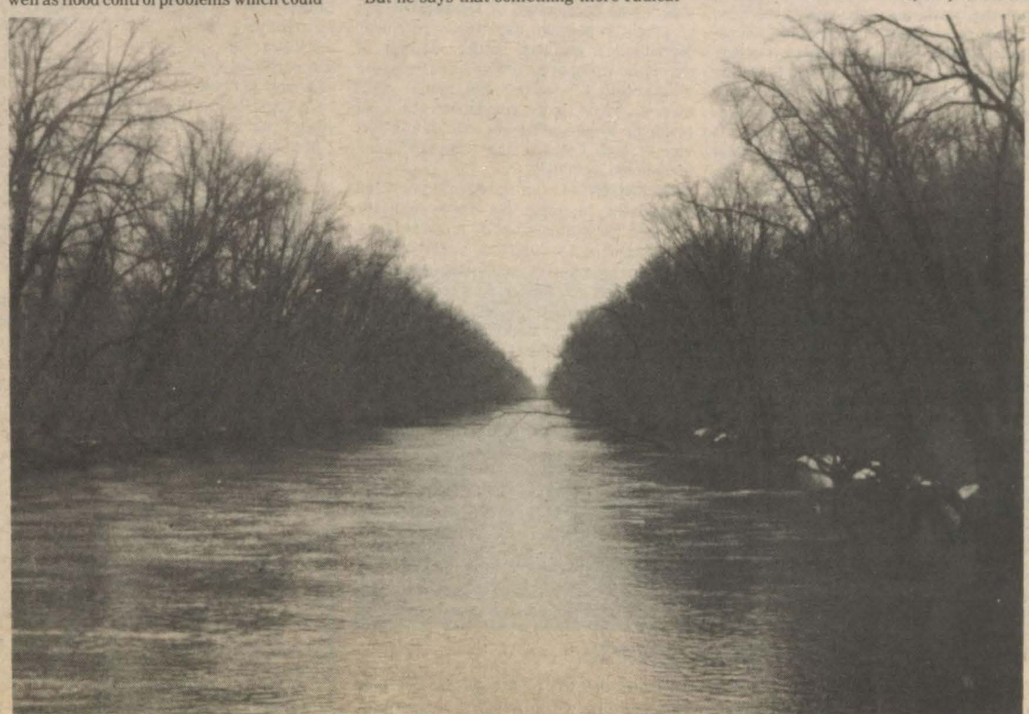
"So far we've been very fortunate, but if we ever got a real bad spring with heavy rains, it would be real bad."

Mullady applauds Indiana's wide levee plan, which would provide flood control without further dredging. He also gives high marks to the Kankakee River Basin Commission's plan to build silt traps in the Kankakee and Yellow Rivers this year. But he says that something more radical will be necessary to restore the Illinois stretch of the Kankakee.

"We could restore the river bottom by using a sand sucker," he says. "In effect, you use this like a very large vacuum cleaner. You'd have to give very close scrutiny to see that no trees (near the river) were destroyed. You'd truck the sand away, and hold it back with a wide levee program.

"It would be a very expensive-type plan, but nevertheless, here we have one of the few rivers in the whole Midwest that has this kind of fishery and wildlife. And water is going to become a very important commodity in the future."

By Rory Holscher



The dredged and straightened main channel of the Kankakee. Photo by Steve Euvino

Bailly first permanent settlement in region

By Karen E. Brennan

Joseph Bailly founded the first permanent settlement in the Calumet region in 1822. Bailly, a fur trader, brought with him his wife, Marie Le Fevre Bailly, and their children, Esther, Rose, Eleanor and Robert, also Therese de la Vigne, a daughter of Mrs. Bailly by another marriage. Another daughter, Hortense, was born later.

The settlement was established with Mr. Bailley's home and trading post on the north bank of the Little Calumet River in Porter County, near the present towns of Porter and Chesterton.

Mr. Bailly was born in 1774 at Quebec of a prominent French family. At an early age he went west and engaged in the fur trade in the vicinity of Michilimackinac. At the time he was described as well educated and lively, no matter that part of the island he was on. He was considered good-natured and fond of entertaining his friends.

By the turn of the 19th century, Mr. Bailly was conducting trading operations on the Grand, Muskegon,, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Rivers in Michigan. He was associated with traders William Burnett, John Kinzie and the famous Potawatomi Chief Alexander Robinson.

By 1805 Mr. Bailly had extended his fur trading to the Kankakee River in Indiana territory.

After the War of 1812, John Jacob Astor's American Fur Co. practically controlled the fur trade of the Great Lakes Region. The records of the company at Michilimackinac for 1821 show that Mr. Bailly and John Kinzie were trading at their own risk in Michigan.

This indicated that Mr. Bailly and Mr. Kinzie were independent traders and not agents of the Astor company.

About this time Mr. Bailly's license as a fur trader, issued by the federal government, assigned him to the Calumet Region. Because the northern boundary of Indiana had not been officially surveyed, he thought he was still in Michigan when he settled on the Little Calumet River.

Mr. Bailly's operations extended out from the Calumet post through southern Michigan, the Kankakee Valley, and into Wabash County. Mr. Bailly obtained trade goods from Detroit and Michilimackinac and in turn sold his furs there.

As was common among Frenchmen in the Great Lakes region in the early years, Mr. Bailly married Indian women. His first wife was the daughter of an Indian chief, and together they had six childrren, Alexis, Joseph, Michel, Philip, Francis and Sophia. The sons, with the exception of Francis, who chose to be a medicine man among the Indians, were educated at Montreal.

Alexis, the oldest son, entered the service of the Northwest Fur Co., a British trading firm, and after the War of 1812 was employed by Astor's American Fur Co. Alexis was elected to Minnesota's first General Assembly in 1858 and was also appointed a colonel in the state's militia. In 1835 he served as one of the administrators of his father's estate on the Little Calumet River.

Joseph Bailly and his first wife separated by mutual consent but the date of their parting is unclear. Marie Le Fevre, his second wife, was born in 1783 in the French settlement known as the Riviere des Raisin on the site of the present city of Monroe, Mich. Her father was a French merchant and her mother was an Ottawa Indian.

At an early age Marie had married an Ottawa medicine man named De La Vigne. Marie purchased her freedom later on from this man through an Ottawa tribal privilege. In 1810 she met Joseph Bailly at Michilimackinac where they decided to marry.

The second Mrs. Bailly was described as a good woman and possessed the gift so prized among the Indians, that of a good storyteller. She continued to speak her native language after her marriage to Mr.Bailly and could understand French only when it was spoken slowly.

From 1822 to 1833 Joseph Bailly and his family apparently were the only settlers in the Calumet Region. And yet their home and trading posts were not typical of pioneer American settlements.

Here they reproduced the social, economic and religious atmosphere of old Michilimackinac and other French outposts in the old Northwest.

Located on a principal Indian trail and near others, Mr. Bailly's trading post became a favorite rendezvous for Indians and trappers. Mr. Bailly operated an inn a short distance from his home and it was popular with travelers.

Mr. Bailly gave his children educational advantages available at the time. The library at his home was stocked with 300 books in French and English, most of them classics. His daughters, Rose and Esther, attended school at Mackinac Island for a brief time before the family moved to the Calumet Region. During the 1820s the children attended the Carey Mission School near the present Niles, Mich. conducted by a Baptist missionary to the Indians, Isaac McCoy.

Eleanor Cecilia Kinzie Bailly, born at Mackinac Island in 1815, had the most distinguished career of any of Joseph Bailly's daughters. Because of her the Bailly family was associated with St. Mary of the Woods, near Terre Haute, Ind. for many years.

A group of the Sisters of Providence came from France to establish this famous school in 1840. Eleanor entered the novitiate at St. Mary's in November 1841. She was described as a native American, educated, refined and familiar with te French and English languages. Eleanor chose the name of Sister Mary Cecilia and later taught English and music at St. Mary's.

In 1844 because of several years of controversy with the bishop of Vincennes, the Sisters of Providence considered moving their school. Sister Mary Cecilia offered land at the Bailly Homestead but this idea was rejected because it was in the diocese of Vincennes.

Sister Mary Cecilia became superior general of St. Mary's in 1856 and was head of the school until 1868.

In 1869 Mother Mary Cecilia's sister, Mrs. Francis Howe, suggested that the Sisters of Providence establish a school at Calumet, now Chesterton, and invited the sisters who might come there to reside at the Bailly homestead. The school was started with Mother Mary Ceciliar who was assisted by three sisters and two secular teachers.

The school closed in 1872 after the superior of St. Mary's declined the offer and the bishop of Fort Wayne couldn't provide a chaplain.

After leaving Chesterton Mother Mary Cecilia filled a post at St. Augustine's in Fort Wayne for eight years. Then, at her request, she was sent to St. Ann's Orphan Asylum in Terre Haute where she died in 1898.

The departure of most of the Indians and the coming of the settlers marked the end of the first trading era. Joseph Bailly turned to other projects and became interested in the location of a harbor and city at the old mouth of the Grand Calumet River in what is now Gary's Marquette Park. He added large tracts of land on both sides of the river to his homestead.

The arrival of the first settlers in 1833 led Mr. Bailly to establish a town on the north bank of the Little Calumet which he called the town of Bailly. Streets were named for members of his family.

Mr. Bailly thought since the site was near the main traffic and routes leading to Chicago it would be a nice profitable project. But newcomers sought good farming land to the south rather than the marshes and dunes to the north and the town proved a poor site for an urban area.

Few lots were sold and the dreams of a town ended with Bailly's death in 1835.

Mrs. Bailly remained at the homestead until her death in 1866. Her daughter, Rose, who married Francis Howe, and her children Rose and Francis, occupied the home after the death of Francis Howe in 1856.

In 1919 the homestead was sold to the School Sisters of Notre Dame who wanted to use it as a retreat for ill sisters. They called the place Villa St. Joseph and many of them lived there during the warm months of each year until 1932 when it was abandoned because of a shortage of personnel. A few years later the homestead passed into private hands.

It's now part of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Beaver pelts fueled commerce, conflict early in Northwest Indiana's history

By Steve Euvino

It's one of history's ironies that a creature that once brought people and prosperity to this area is now regarded as a nuisance, but that's the case today with the beaver. The dam-building beaver, once so highly prized for its valuable fur, is now considered by some a pest for the damage it causes to irrigation ditches and crops when it re-routes water.

Before anyone misjudges these industrious rodents for simply doing what comes naturally, he or she might want to remember that the beaver in Indiana may simply be trying to make up for lost time. Besides, the beaver has been a witness and catalyst to some of the best and worst in human nature.

You might not readily associate the beaver with the Hoosier State, but Castor canadensis has certainly left its mark here--and on more than just chewed bark. There was formerly a place called Beaver Pond in Bartholomew County. The Official Highway Map of Indiana for 1975-76 showed the towns Beaver City in Newton County and Beaver Dam in Kosciusko County.

The beaver was once found throughout Indiana but evidently disappeared from nearly all of the state by 1840, perhaps even earlier. Fur traders in this area reported extremely low numbers by 1800.

While it may be difficult or impossible to pinpoint when beavers became extinct in Indiana, there was a long time during which they were not included among the fauna of the state. The Indiana Department of Conservation, now the Department of Natural Resources, obtained beavers from Wisconsin and Michigan in 1935 and released them on the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area and on the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area in Starke County. After the introduction of small numbers of beavers, their numbers grew and they spread to other counties. By 1947 an estimated 5,000 beavers were thought to be living in Indiana.

"I would speculate that we have a very healthy beaver population in Indiana," said Dave Turner, environmental unit supervisor for the DNR. Mr. Turner, who's been doing stream work for the past five to six years, added that every stream has seen the widening of the beaver population in the state.

"In building dams, beavers hold and impede bodies of water," Mr. Turner said. In doing so beavers make way for wetland vegetation. "Wetlands are probably the most productive type of habitat for wildlife and fish," he added.

However, by backing up water beavers also flood out manmade areas, such as cornfields. Some farmers have dynamited dams as one solution, but unless they destroy the beavers as well the blasting is useless. "It becomes a chore," Mr. Turner said, "because beavers will build a dam over night."

Beavers construct dams as a means of getting to their food. They are vegetarians and will munch on anything from cornstalks to the bark off cottonwood and birch trees to small vegetation.

Beaver trapping season in Indiana is Nov. 15 to March 15 and until a few years ago when European fur prices were high, pelt numbers were well into the thousands.

The annual figures on beaver pelts reflect not only the economic situation but also the statewide distribution of the mammals. According to DNR figures, in 1954, 158 beaver pelts were sold at an average price of $7.18 per pelt. The bulk of these pelts came from Northeast Indiana (95) and the next largest group (44) came from Northwest Indiana.

In 1961 there were 433 beaver pelts reported and in 1972 that figure went to 507. Numbers steadily increased and in 1979 there were 2,001 pelts reported at an average cost of $16.41. Of that total count, 1,622 were from Northwest Indiana, while 467 came from the southwestern part of the state. The northeastern and central sections were next in line. By 1983, however, the pelt count dropped to 1,010, 281 of them from southwest Indiana, and the average cost had dipped to $7.26.

According to Mr. Turner, beavers are difficult to skin and although some trappers still seek the animals in the wild, most of today's furs are the products of fur farms.

However, there was a time, centuries ago, when the marshes and sloughs teemed with all kinds of wildlife--beavers, deer, muskrat, fox--and it was this lure of fur and fortune that drew the picturesque and adventurous voyageurs (boatmen) and coureurs de bois (bush rangers) to this part of the New World.

Romanticized on canvas and in books, the French explorers and their fur trade went on to encompass the affairs of two continents, from the Indians of North America and the ambitions of Jesuit missionaries to the popularity of beaver hats in Europe and the rivalry among nations for wealth and colonial possessions.

In 1675 Rev. Jacques Marquette and a team of voyageurs passed through the Calumet Region. The Jesuit priest, who two years before had traveled with Louis Joliet for a route to the Pacific, was so impressed with the hospitality of the Illinois Indians that he promised to return and establish a mission among them. On the three days before Easter in April 1675 Rev. Marquette preached to more than 1,500 Indians at a village a few miles south of the present city of Ottawa, Ill.

He died the following March but along his journey he probably camped at the mouth of the Grand Calumet River.

An early center of trade in the Calumet Region was Fort St. Joseph, located near Niles, Mich. For more than a century Fort St. Joseph was the principal seat of civilization around the southern end of Lake Michigan. Jesuit priests established the St. Joseph Mission to minister to the Potawatomi and other tribes and the fort was erected shortly thereafter to control the canoe routes and to serve as a barrier between the Iroquois and other lake-area tribes.

Before the establishment of Fort Dearborn in 1803, many of the Indians from Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin brought their pelts to St. Joseph. While the Indians had no permanent homes in this area, they did prize the region for furs, fish, and wild berries. The Potawatomi in particular regarded the Calumet Region as one of their favorite hunting grounds.

The Potawatomi and other Great Lakes Indians had remained loyal to the French, but after the French period in the New World ended in 1763 with their defeat in the French and Indian War, the Indians were at a loss for allies among the white man. Tribes grew restless when the English proved to be less generous than the French in gifts, and unscrupulous traders sought to cheat and plunder the Indians. Also, English settlers were moving westward and depriving the Indians of their homeland. Warfare broke out, as Indians raided English forts.

The Little Calumet River was the site of a trading post from which Joseph Bailly built a thriving business in the fur trade.

In 1763 the English king issued the "Proclamation of 1763," which forbade settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains and limited fur traffic to those of good character who could qualify for a license. The proclamation was probably intended as a temporary expedient to pacify the Indians and to buy time for the English to consider better methods of regulating the fur trade. The Proclamation of 1763 did not prove satisfactory and in 1774 was replaced with the Quebec Act, which was designed to establish a civil government for the Northwest, provide for better supervision of the Indians, and to regulate the fur trade more effectively.

During the American Revolution the English were able to win over the Great Lakes Indians with the help of presents, weapons, rum, and promises. Gov. Henry Hamilton at Detroit promised to pay for scalps as he would for beaver furs.

It was during the Revolutionary War that a battle took place near the Petite Fort at the mouth of Fort Creek in what is now the Indiana Dunes State Park. The French had built the fort to help them command the fur trade of the Calumet Region. The fort may have been used by the St. Joseph traders as a collection point and storage place for furs obtained by the Potawatomi from local marshes. The fort was later occupied by the English and then abandoned in 1779.

The end of the war brought forth a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that the American fur trade should be just that--American, not English. Convinced that the English were dominating the fur trade and stirring up the Indians against the infant nation, the U.S government took steps to wrestle the English away from the rich furs.

Through peaceful negotiation, the English eventually agreed to evacuate their military posts in U.S. territory. To further counteract the English, Congress initiated in 1796 a fur-trade policy that established government-owned factories that would trade at fair prices with the Indians. Government factories were established at Chicago in 1805, two years after the founding of Fort Dearborn, and at Mackinac in 1809.

The War of 1812 definitely settled English interference with American Indian affairs and gave the United States title to the lands south of the Great Lakes. In 1815 the Potawatomies made a new peace agreement with the Americans and after that time the border enjoyed peace and tranquility, just the right climate for enterprising businessmen. Trappers and traders returned to their favorite haunts. John Kinzie, considered by many the father of Chicago, reopened his trading store there. The Northwest Territory soon was swarmed with agents of John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company, which had a monopoly of fur trading in the Great Lakes area.

Mr. Astor built an empire out of fur. Evidence reveals that the American Fur Company used bribery of government officials and the lure of whiskey, and inferior merchandise for Indians, to achieve superiority in the industry. For a while the Astor fur trade on Lake Michigan flourished and reached new heights of production, but then the supply dwindled. The relentless pursuit of the fur-bearing animals resulted in smaller annual yields by the mid-1830s. Mr. Astor retired as head of the company and sold the Great Lakes portion of the business in 1834; nine years later the company went bankrupt.

By 1847 an era in the Great Lakes fur trade had passed, leaving behind a group of small-scale traders and Indians whose way of life had depended for so long on fur and who now were left with skills that would no longer provide them with means of subsistence.

"THE OLD HOBART MILL", By Cliff Hanson, built in 1845 by George Earle, destroyed by fire in 1953. Widely believed to have inspired the song, "Down By The Old Mill Stream." COPYRIGHT 1953 — CLIFF HANSON

Let's grow slowly, carefully, with purpose

By Bill Kurtis

I have been fortunate enough to have been involved in many different aspects of the tremendous growth experienced in Merrillville over the past 15 years due to my serving the town in many capacities, including a town board trustee.

The small, intimate community of a few neighborhoods has since blossomed into a made possible both through a strong tax base and the committment to quality of our administrators, teachers, and parents. Town services rival any around, and our town is kept clean and isolated from the major crime problems of neighboring cities, thanks to our police professionals.

However, there are trends developing in the town that could very well spell a down-

That same commercial center that has given us so many services also is taking its toll on the roads of Merrillville.

thriving, bustling center of commerce, retail trade, housing development, and more neighborhoods.

These taxpaying entities have strengthened the various government units of the town so that we have been able to provide a quality of life that doesn't exist in some surrounding municipalities.

Excellent schools for our children are

Bill Kurtis, the outgoing town board president, has served two terms as a trustee.

turn in the quality of life we have come to take advantage of in Merrillville.

Random, haphazard development of vacant land is a sore point, and is left unchecked and unrestricted can only fester to backfire on us one day. Vacant office buildings line the professional office centers of Broadway, while just across or down the street new construction is taking place to build more of the same. We need to take care of what we have before we try to get more.

That same commercial center that has given us so many services also is taking its toll on the roads of Merrillville. Keeping up with paving and road repair problems takes hundreds of manhours a week and thousands of dollars a month. And the traffic is choking the town's streets so that many old timers like myself use out-of-the-way routes to get where they are going to avoid the hassles and problems of driving through town.

A strong and enforcable traffic plan needs to be implemented here soon.

Traffic flow guidelines, newer and wider streets to accommodate the heavy burden, and coordinaton of efforts are needed to stop the problem before it gets so bad it can not be stopped.

All the talk of an airport for the town of Merrillville is so much heresay, and I hope it stays that way. Our people moved to Merrillville to avoid the problems of big towns, and many people now would like to place that burden right back in the average citizens lap. Granted, there may be a need for a jetport of some type here, but let us look into the matter and place the facility where it will not disturb what we already have.

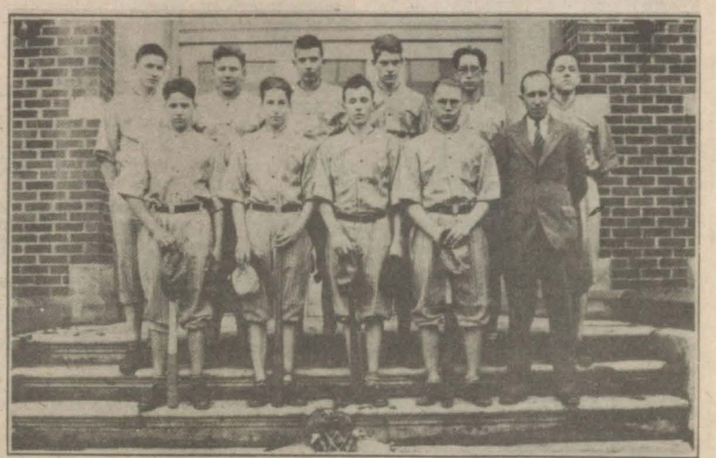
O'Hare neighbors have fought expansion of that airport for years because of traffic, noise, and other problems. We cannot place such an item anywhere in Merrillville without disturbing the tranquility of the folks who have made this fine town their home.

And last, but not least, we cannot forsake our farming friends in the south end of town. Many of those families have been here for decades, and wanton development will kill much of their reason for staying. That area was zoned agricultural for a purpose, and we must look very carefully before we allow large developments to destroy that.

Merrillville is definitely the place for things to happen, and I want them to happen. I am not condemning development of the vast area and services we have to offer business. But I am asking that we do it slowly, carefully, and with as precise as possible studies of the effects, the longevity and the consequences of what we do.

There is no other town in which I want to live, where I want to serve or where I want to watch develop into a booming center of activity.

If we place our priorities carefully, move correctly and with calculation, we can accomplish our development without disturbing the reasons why many of us have chosen to live here.



Diamonds in the rough

The boys didn't fare quite as well as the girls baseball team in 1931, going 2-4 for the year. Team members were; R. Hacker, E. Hoeppner, J. Gruel, G. Bowman, H. Miller, and S. White. Back; M. Schults, K. Bullock, G. Giertz, R. Kitchel, Coach Hauk.

Southlake Speech & Hearing Center, Inc. was founded in 1980. We would like at this time to tell you a little about our business and services.

All clinicians are licensed by the state of Indiana in their respective fields. The clinicians are also certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The Speech Pathologist has nine years of experience in dealing with the preschool and school age children with speech and language disorders.

Our General Services include audiological diagnostic and rehabilitative services to children and adults. The Speech Pathology Department provides diagnostic and therapy services to children and adults exhibiting a wide variety of communication disorders including articulation problems, language delay, stuttering, voice disorders, aphasia, and communication disorders associated with cleft lip and palate and with cerebral palsy and other neuromuscular disorders.

Also, a note to parents: The preschool years are the prime time to work with children who have articulation and language problems. Many speech and language problems can be corrected before a child enters school.

The Southlake Speech & Hearing Center Clinicians are members of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), Indiana Speech and Hearing Association, Illinois Speech and Hearing Association, National Association for Speech and Hearing Action, and the American Auditory Society.

Southlake Speech & Hearing Center, Inc. is open Monday through Saturday. Services are provided by appointment.

SOUTHLAKE SPEECH & HEARING CENTER INC.
For Your Communication & Listening Needs
521 E. 86th Ave. — Merrillville, IN 738-2528

新 NEW MOON 月

Chinese & American Cuisine
Banquet Facilities Available

Enhanced by the recent addition of an extensive oriental gift collection, the lobby of Merrillville's New Moon Restaurant (pictured), stands ready to enhance shoppers as well as diners.

The collection includes oriental ceramic vases, fresh water pearl jewelry, delicate tea services, carved jade figurines and lovely oriental dolls and wall hangings.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Lee, New Moon owners, are proud of the new lobby decor and invite casual browsers and serious shoppers to their beautiful restaurant.

Diners, too, will enjoy the lovely oriental motif as they enjoy the New Moon's delicious appetizers, flavorful main courses and unusual desserts and beverages.

Prepared by experienced chefs, New Moon features full-service meals as well as daily and Sunday buffet lunches.

Banquet facilities are available for private parties.

The Lees invite you to help celebrate Chinese New Year. On February 9, 10 and 11. A complimentary glass of wine, or soft drink will be served with every dinner at New Moon.

The New Moon is located at I-65 and U.S. 30 across from Merrillville's Holiday Inn. Call 738-2666 for further information.

Welcome to the Southwest

Skystone & Silver

Since 1979 Pam Phillips has pleased customers with handcrafted native American art, rugs, pottery sculpture, sterling and 14 carat jewelry.

Pam is the highly knowledgeable owner of Skystone and Silver, where you can almost hear the dreams of Zuni pulsating from antique showcases. The decor creates an aura of history and tradition of American Indian Heritage.

Each piece of art and jewelry has been personally purchased from the artist, or designed by Pam.

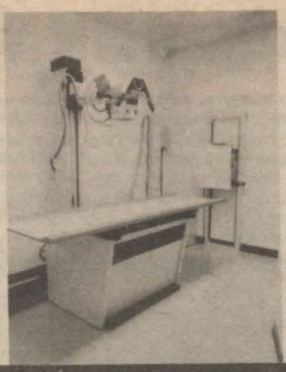
This year at the Inter-Tribal Ceremonials in Gallop, New Mexico, Pam entered 14 pieces of her own design, or co-operative design. Twelve of those entries were awarded ribbons. This event was the 64th year in the major judging of native American craft.

1985 marked a special honor for Pam Phillips. She was invited to participate in private religious ceremonials at the Zuni Pueblo in New Mexico. The Indians gave her a traditional Pueblo ceremonial dress for the event and it is now on display at Skystone & Silver.

Pam also was instrumental in the production of her own radio commercial for Skystone & Silver that has been aired on 107 FM and WAKE. The commercial was produced in Nashville and has been nominated for a Cleo Award.

Plans for 1986 include a reception for famous Zuni artist Phil Hughte and his family. Art lovers can meet Mr. Hughte and purchase his famous oils and acrylics during the event. Pam hopes to develop this concept into a full scale Native-American show, featuring silversmiths, potters and artists from the southwest. Remember, Pam Phillips repairs jewelry on the premisis and is an experienced silversmith.

Experience Skystone and Silver at 1350 South Lake Park Ave. in Hobart or give Pam Phillips a call at 942-9022.



Your baby's fever is 102 degrees. You need to see a doctor, but can't wait for an appointment. Who do you turn to?

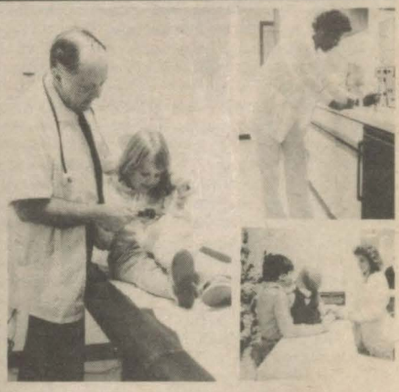
You feel sick, achy, feverish. You should seek medical care, but you can't afford to miss work. Where do you go?

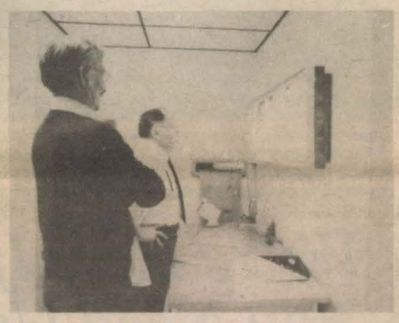
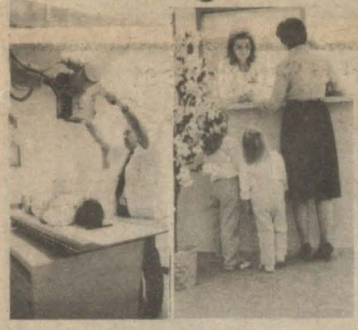
Medicare deductible cost and health insurance premiums continue to rise. Who do you turn to?

BROADWAY EMERGENCY AND

THE DOCTOR'S IN ®

FAMILY CARE CENTER, INC.



Thorough, Professional, Prompt

service with individualized attention at a lower cost is what the ***BROADWAY EMERGENCY AND FAMILY CARE CENTER*** can offer you.

The care center is located at 5201 Broadway in Merrillville. No appointment is necessary. Just walk in and you will be taken care of. In addition to saving valuable time -- you'll save money. Broadway Emergency and Family Care Center charges no hospital emergency room fee, a savings of $35 or more.

BROADWAY EMERGENCY AND FAMILY CARE CENTER is dedicated to providing quality medical care. Our facilities are clean, comfortable, affordable and -- most importantly -- convenient.

We have modern diagnostic equipment including facilities for laboratory work, x-rays and EKGs. X-rays can be shot right on top of the examining table eliminating the need to transfer the patient from one table to another.

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Dr. Joseph C. Sabato, D.O., the president of ***BROADWAY EMERGENCY AND FAMILY CARE CENTER,*** has had 17 years experience in emergency room care as well as taking part in initiating the emergency room at St. Anthony Hospital and Our Lady of Mercy Hospital in Dyer. Dr. Sabato was also medical director of the Budd Corporation for two years.

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981-1001

'Adversity is still the challenge'

By Marian Hasara

Marian Hasara is a leading businesswoman in the area, and is responsible for the Miss U.S. Teen Pageant making a home in Merrillville.

Merrillville in the year 2000 seems so far away.

It is hard for me to relate to the next century since I've spent almost fifty years writing the date starting with 19. In reality, the year 2000 is only fourteen years from now. Much can be done in those fourteen years.

Last week I visited the museum in Gary at the old Gary Land Office Building. I saw pictures of a tent city at what is now 4th and Broadway dated 1906. I remembered that date because it was the year my father was born.

When he was sixteen years old, he came to Gary to work in the steel mills. He came to a city that had a major industry, established neighborhoods, and a thriving business community. Not bad progress in sixteen years.

That was a beginning for our area. Now we are at another beginning. We are privileged to start a new period of prosperity for our community.

Those of us who have grown up in this community have lived in the shadow of "big business." Life seemed easier when the decisions were left up to some one else. That type of life is over for our area and all of the United States. The days of the unlimited expense account and unskilled worker are over.

In order to succeed now we need to set our goals and work for them. Small businesses need to be brought into our area. We have so much to offer them--skilled workers wanting to work, nice neighborhoods, good schools, just to name a few. We have the same location that attracted big business eighty years ago.

It will attract business still.

We can't forget that although the large industries of the past are not working to capacity, they are still here and a major employer. A diversity of small businesses together with the big businesses will give our community a solid base on which to base our new prosperity. Each and every person will be called upon to add their input into this prosperity.

In the last five years, I have watched a change come over our community. It is an exciting change. We aren't followers anymore, we are leaders. I've watched commuinity groups grow from a few followers to hundreds. I've seen people working together to help each other survive in hard economic times.

This is a growing trend. The more we get involved, the more we help each other, the better our lives will be. Life is more than just a dollar in the bank. Fourteen years from now can be a time of prosperity in a caring community.

Last week, Miss U.S. Teen, Katie Adams of Kalispell, Montana, visited our area. She was overwhelmed by the friendship extended to her throughout the county. This Hoosier Hospitality is an intangible that may be our greatest asset. We take for granted the beauty that surrounds us. Add our Hoosier Hospitality to that beauty and we have a tremendous tourism draw.

What will life be like in the year 2000?

I see major industry, with established neighborhoods and a thriving business community. The basics will be the same, we will just be getting to them differently than we did at the start of the last century. Sure we will still have problems.

I hope we do, because adversity is still the challenge that brings out the best in us.

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We were founded in 1980 and have three present employees including the owner and manager Cynthia H. Davis. Ms. Davis is a member of Women's Referral Service of Greater Chicago. The business supports Lakeshore Business and Professional Women.

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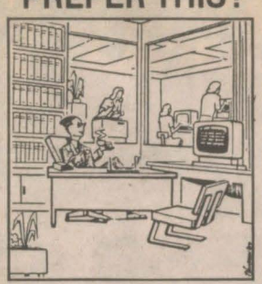

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Pictured above is Bernice Bamberg, secretary; and Helen Maslanka, office manager.

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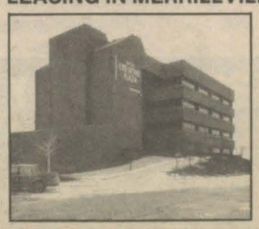

Railroads help spawn growth

Railroads made the country smaller in the early to mid 1800's, providing a quick and inexpensive way to travel routes that weren't possible by foot or boat.

Merrillville was no exception.

Actually deriving its name from the C&O line who called the town after the Merrill brothers, Ross Township first received a rail link to the rest of the country when the line was laid along 73rd Ave. in 1876.

The railroads, combined with attractive offers from the federal government in Washington, spawned a new growth in what was then considered frontier areas.

Cheap travel rates for immigrants, free land grants to homesteaders, and other programs spurned easterners and newly arrived European immigrants to travel west in search of their Promised Land. Many stopped in towns such as Merrillville and never left. Pioneer families brought all they owned and could carry, and setting up a household in these areas required little.

The Chicago and Grand Trunk began to pass through Merrillville in 1880, and brought a new industry to the town. Dairy farmers began supplying two boxcars a day of milk for the Chicago market. The "dummy" trains, as they were called, ran every day for 40 years and missed only once, during a severe snowstorm.

Although there was no passenger line at the time, many area residents rode into Chicago on the rough trains for shopping, markets, and schooling.

Official passenger trains arrived here for the first time in 1900 on the C&O. Three years later, the stationhouse that became a landmark was erected near 73rd and Broadway. There was a ticket office, a waiting area, and a four room apartment for the stationmaster and his family.

Passenger lines meant great adventure in those days, providing cheap opportunities to see the areas talked about in newspapers and gossip. The trains also brought opportunity to businessmen and farmers, both in supplying the travelers as well as having access to markets in other areas of the country.

Automobiles, highways, the building of cities, all spelled the last call for the passenger rail lines of old. Many towns which had subsisted on the rail service began to see their economy crumble.

Fortunately, Merrillville was not very dependant on the service for most business, and when the last passenger train rolled out in 1946, it wasn't dollars so much that were lost.

Just a lot of good memories.

By Rick A. Spicer

The Ainsworth train depot in 1916.

-Dr. Homer Iddings- Ross Township Trustee and the father of the Merrillville school system, and his wife Mary.

BOASTING NEW QUARTERS

hal HEURING Cadillac / Chevrolet

In 1978 Hal Heuring opened his Chevrolet-Cadillac dealership on U.S. 30 in Valparaiso. Due to tremendous growth in sales and inventory they have now relocated to 1856 U.S. 30, a short 2½ miles west of their former location. The new dealership offers over 12,000 additional square footage to the dealership, and convenience to customers.

Hal Heuring Chevrolet-Cadillac features a complete line of new cars & trucks and an impressive inventory of A-1 pre-driven vehicles. The dealership offers a full service body shop, complete mechanical servicing, including a sun machine, and a full line of G.M. parts.

Hal Heuring has a convenient leasing service where customers have the opportunity to save.

There are forty highly trained people at Hal Heuring Chevrolet-Cadillac. Used car manager Craig Heuring states, "The best people in the automotive business work here." Brother Scott Heuring is the new vehicle sales manager, where the deals are the best. Hal, Craig, and Scott Heuring hail from a family tradition of automotive dealerships.

Additional growth for 1986 will include an all new body shop that will be located at the back of the new building. The temporary body shop is now at 454 Lincolnway in Valparaiso.

Hal Heuring Chevrolet-Cadillac is "The Dealer That Makes the Difference." For your next new car, truck, van or used car, see the people who care, or give them a call, toll free, at 759-4411.

Hoosier foresight: State suffrage in 1917

After the first 15 presidential elections, some women were ready to progress from influencing male votes to voting themselves.

It was the year of the controversial issues, the year that, probably for the first and only time in their history, the Indiana legislature was considered a topnotch, future minded body of law.

The year was 1917, and the Indiana General Assembly passed three major bills which shocked the Hoosier state and grabbed headlines throughout the country.

Lauded as "one of the bravest and most foresighted bodies of assemblymen in the country" by one politician observer of the era, the legislatures topped their last of priorities for that session by passing the right to vote for women, a prohibition on all liquor, and a resolution laying the groundwork for a new constitutional convention.

"Indiana Women's Victory Sweeping" read the headline of the **Lowell Tribune** in July of 1917. The act allowing women suffrage gave Hoosier females the right to vote for more state and local offices than in any other state at the time. It marked the end of a ten-year fight by suffrage groups who had introduced bills before the assembly since 1907.

But not quite.

Marion Superior Court Judge W.W. Thornton later ruled, less than six weeks after the historic law, that the amendment granting women the franchise was unconstitutional. Registration of women voters, which began when Miss Gladys Kepam, an assistant deputy in the Marion County clerk's office first signed up to vote, crashed to a halt after Judge Thronton's ruling.

He based his declaration on the right given to women under new statutes to be represented at a constitutional convention by elected delegates. He also ruled that the legislature could not force the issue onto the populace without public approval.

Judge Thornton later consented to let women register, and he was later overturned in his decision against women suffrage. And soon the ball was rolling.

Like any political maneuvering, the women suffrage issue was not without its infighting. Factions were divided among the leading women's ranks as to the amount of suffrage they needed and felt they could effectively accomplish.

Mrs. Felix McWhirter, of Indianapolis, led the fight to establish a small base of voting rights without constitutional amendment, and then push to strengthen and widen that base later. Her group was consistently on top, as well as in the front lines leading the parade of potential women voters.

The women had nearly been victorious in 1915, two years earlier, when a similar version of the bill had passed the Senate, but a House committee swallowed the bill and never let it see the light of a voting day.

However, smart political power plays by women and their leading voices in the two branches of the legislature worked out plans and snuck the bill through both houses in 1917.

The women were first allowed to vote in local elections in 1918 for county offices, and a few statewide posts. The first presidential campaign women were allowed to be involved in was in 1920.

By Rick A. Spicer

Smithsonian News Service Photos courtesy of the National Museum of American History

In January 1917, suffragists were the first group to use silent White House pickets as a form of protest. Later that year, when onlookers reacted violently to the words on the suffrage banners, it was the women who were arrested and sentenced to jail terms.

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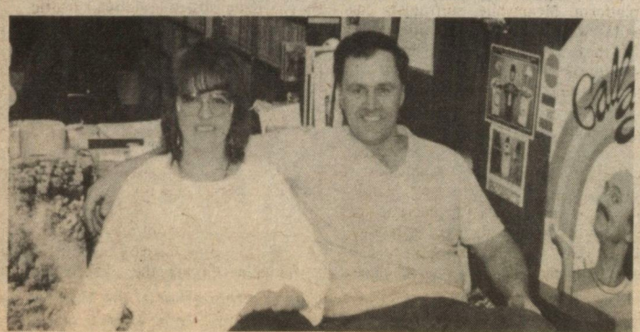

In March of 1985 Don and Ann Dulla opened their growing video store at 152 S. Illinois Street in Hobart. Video fans will find a wide selection of popular video tapes, and accessories such as blank tapes, video bank boxes, splitters, and other video electrical needs.

Don and Ann built a special spook room last October, just in time for Halloween. This selection features videos to chill the bones and keep you awake at night. There is also a restricted adults only room. Video viewers can purchase T.V. snacks, candy and dips at Nostalgia Video, for total T.V. viewing pleasure.

The Dulla's plan to have over 1000 movies by the end of March, and a whopping 2000 by the end of the year. Be sure to rent your VCR at Nostalgia Video and get ready for T.V. viewing that you can select for your family.

Nostalgia Video supports numerous school functions, the Jaycees and church groups. There's plenty of parking at the rear of the store too!

Give Don and Ann Dulla a call at 942-1665 if you have a question.

"Home of the Famous Italian Sub"

LINCOLN CARRY OUTS

Cyndi Jasch sees that there is always lean, freshly sliced meats ready to go into Lincoln Carry Out's subs and sandwiches.

In 1978 owner Bob Underwood opened his first store at 4th and Fillmore in Gary. Lincoln Carry Outs featured the best subs and sandwiches in the area and grew to six successful stores in a few short years. There are more than 10,000 sandwiches and subs sold to hungry customers in a week. When Bob opened his newest store in Portage, that store alone served 29,600 submarines in only 12 days!

All six locations use only the best of ingredients in their subs and sandwiches. Lincoln Carry Out offers many kinds of homemade salads and pies as well. There are a total of 73 efficient friendly employees waiting to serve you up the best sandwich or sub you ever ate.

Make it easy for yourself and call ahead for carry outs.

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Hobart	Lincoln Carry Outs	Peachtree Shopping Plaza
10th & Lincoln	& Pizzeria	Central Ave., Portage
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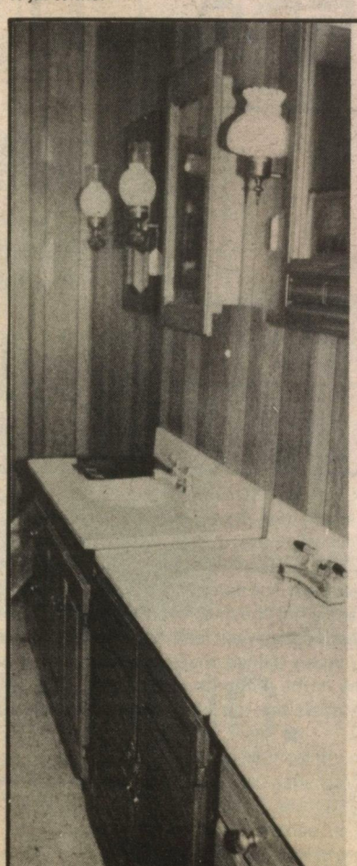

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Since 1922 this second generation has been serving Northwest Indiana with a complete line of plumbing and heating supplies.

In 1980 owners Irwin and Judy Janovsky moved their business from Gary to its present location on State Road 130 in Hobart.

Guarantee Supply boasts an attractive modern showroom where customers can choose showers, vanities, lights, towel bars, tissue holders and more. They also carry a wide selection of hot water heaters and sump pumps.

The six employees at Guarantee Supply have the answers to your plumbing and heating questions, and can offer time and money saving suggestions on layouts and deisgns of bathrooms, kitchens and heating systems.

Irwin and Judy invite you to come see them when purchasing your plumbing or heating supplies. Have a question? Call 942-0924.

History of the fight for women's franchise

When women "got the vote" in 1920, some people predicted-and feared- the end of femininity and the family and the beginning of unneeded social reform and elections determined by an unpredictable but solid bloc of women's votes.

The predictions did not come true. In fact, the elections following passage of the suffrage amendment were anticlimatic compared to the years of intense effort to win the vote. In the 1924 election, only one-third of the women eligible to vote cast their ballots. As late as 1960, the voter turnout rate for women was still 11 percentage points behind the rate for men. Moreover, it appeared that the way women voted was indistinguishable from the way men voted.

Today, 65 years after women began voting (the 19th Amendment to the Constitution became law on Aug. 26, 1920), political historians talk matter-of-factly about gender gaps, women's issues, the feminist vote and the impact of a female vice presidential candidate on an election. In 1980, for the first time in history, the proportion of women who reported voting (59.4 percent) was higher than that of men (59.1 percent).

When the 1980 and 1984 election returns were examined, pollsters took note of the long-awaited difference in men's and women's votes in presidential, state and local races and labeled that difference the "gender gap."

The term may be new, but the phenomenon has been developing for some time, says Marjorie Lansing, co-author of **Women and Politics: The Visible Majority**. Within the past decade or so, the women's movement has been accompanied by the "growth of an invisible majority (formed by women) in the electorate which has coalesced at times to influence public policy."

Ethel Klein, a political scientist at Columbia University and author of **Gender Politics**, says that "even when men and women vote for the same candidate, a women's votes exists so long as women vote for that candidate for different reasons." If, for example, women vote for a Democrat because of the party's position on social services or defense spending while men vote for the same candidate because of unemployment and labor issues, Klein contends, there is "a women's vote irrespective of the fact that both men and women voted for the Democrat."

In several 1984 state elections the gender gap was more pronounced than in the landslide presidential election, according to data compiled by the Center for the American Woman and Politics at Rutgers University. Women's participation, in fact, determined the outcome of races in Illinois, Michigan, Massachusetts and Iowa. (Since ballots are anonymous, information on how men and women vote comes from exit poll interviews and opinion surveys conducted by major national news organizations.)

The journey to the gender gap was long and difficult. Officially, it began with an 1848 Seneca Falls (N.Y.) convention which resolved "that it is the duty of the women of this country to secure for themselves their sacred right to the elective franchise." But women's interest and involvement in elections goes back to the first presidential campaigns, when women worked behind the scenes, organizing political meetings and luncheons, making campaign items and attending rallies.

Many mementos of these early campaigns, as well as treasured suffrage artifacts, are collected, studied and exhibited in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Some 19th-century election objects were made by women and others were aimed at women, but all had a distinct "home" appeal--sewing boxes, ceramic tableware, quilts and pendants. The thinking of the time was that "women would influence the votes of their husbands and sons even though the women themselves could not go to the polls," Edith Mayo, political history curator at the museum, says. "Ironically, political activities and party affiliations were considered family affairs."

After the first 15 presidential elections, some women were ready to progress from influencing male voters to voting themselves. Thus began the decades-long suffrage movement in America. A tour of the museum's "We the People" exhibition gives a glimpse of that struggle: the table on which the Seneca Falls "Declaration of Sentiments" was written; the desk used by suffragist Susan B. Anthony who devoted 54 years to the cause; picketers' banners; parade posters and sashes, fans ("Keep Cool and Raise a Breeze for Suffrage") and a Washington, D.C. jail key to the cells where suffragist demonstrators were imprisoned in 1917.

Organized efforts to secure the vote for women began in 1867 with a state referendum in Kansas. It failed. But in 1869, Wyoming became the first state to enfranchise women and two national suffrage associations were formed, later merging under President Susan B. Anthony to become the National American Woman's Suffrage Association.

Universal suffrage, many women hoped, would become a reality through victory state by state. And so, according to records kept by suffrage leader Carrie Chapman Catt, there were 47 campaigns to convince state constitutional conventions to write suffrage into their constitutions, 277 campaigns to adopt suffrage in state party platforms and 480 efforts to ask state legislatures to submit suffrage amendments to their voters. By 1913, nine states, all west of the Mississippi, had enfranchised women.

Confronted in 1916 with seemingly endless stalemates and questionable vote recounts in some states, historian Eleanor Flexneer explains in her book **Century of Struggle**, "the eyes of more and more suffragists began turning to Washington, where in the nation's capital, a new suffrage venture was under way."

That year, 5,000 NAWSA members lobbied the Republican Convention to get suffrage on the platform. Meanwhile, suffragists continued to "work on" Congress, although interest in the federal suffrage amendment was at an all-time low, Flexner says.

The opposition that confronted suffragists on both state and national fronts was formidable: political parties that could not be sure of winning if women were enfranchised, big-city political machines suspicious of women's desires to "clean up" politics, brewers and liquor lobbies concerned that women voters would support prohibition, wealthy "antis" (as suffrage opponents were called) who argued that voting would place a burden on women whose place was in the home, and Southern politicians who did not want newly-enfranchised women calling attention to their racially discriminatory voting policies. And there was the psychological barrier, Mayo adds, of a society "based on women in private rather than public roles."

Despite the obstacles, the movement steadily gained ground. NAWSA launched an aggressive new strategy and the role of women changed as millions entered the work force during World War I and, gradually, both men and women came to belive in the equity of a democracy that allowed all citizens to vote.

In addition, suffrage activities were becoming more visible to the public. Newspapers of the day were saturated with suffrage stories. Parades, conventions, auto pilgrimages and pickets were organized by both factions of the movement -- the mainstream NAWSA and the National Woman's Party, an activist group headed by Alice Paul, a social worker and suffragist who had been trained in the militant British women's movement.

In 1917, the first suffrage pickets, organized by the Woman's Party, stood silently outside the White House gates with banners asking Woodrow Wilson, "Mr. President, What Will You Do For Woman Suffrage?" It was the first time any group had picketed the White House and crowd reactions ranged from curiosity to sympathy. However, as the nation entered World War I and as the suffragists' signs grew bolder and were perceived as unpatriotic, they were the ones who were arrested -- and jailed. By year's end, 97 women were serving terms of up to six months. The charge: obstructing sidewalk traffic.

By 1918, 11 states, including New York which was crucial to the movement's success, had granted "full suffrage" (as opposed to presidential suffrage). In May 1919, Congress passed the suffrage amendment and it was then ratified by the states. In August 1920, the amendment became law, 26 million American women became voters and the NAWSA was renamed the League of Women Voters.

Thus ended a 72-year effort and began a new women's battle, as Carrie Chapman Catt put it, for entry through the "locked door" of political parties. "If you really want your vote to count," Catt told suffragists in 1920, "make your way there."

BURNS FUNERAL HOME

Seated, left to right, Terrence P. Burns, Edward J. Burns. Standing, left to right, David C. Mayer, Gordon L. Jones, James F. Burns and David W. Semplinski.

Burns Funeral Home, serving Northwest Indiana families since 1908, was established in Hammond by James Edward Burns. His son, Edward J. Burns, started his own funeral home in 1932 at 7th and Adams in Gary, In 1962, Edward's son Terrence P. Burns became a partner and in 1973 they expanded and bought a funeral home at 43rd and Broadway in Glen Park. In 1976 Edward's son James F. Burns became a partner and the family further expanded by buying and greatly renovating the once Pflughoeft Funeral Home in Hobart located at 7th and Lincoln Streets.

Today, 1986, Ed, Terry, and Jim Burns do business from their Hobart location as well as a new Colonial style funeral home the family built at the corner of 101st and Broadway on the Merrillville-Crown Point border. The new funeral home continues the tradition of warmth and richness of decor and is served by the same experienced and compassionate staff as serves the Hobart location.

Burns Funeral Home, looking forward, is the only funeral home in Northwest Indiana to be able to offer to its families, full cremation services. Until now, area funeral homes have had to rely on outside crematories to provide the actual cremation process. Burns have built their own crematory, housed within the new funeral home, providing modern and elegant surroundings.

Burns Funeral Home offers many prearrangement plans and options, including irrevocable trusts and cremation packages, to the families they serve. A telephone call is all that is needed to meet with a staff member for assistance in making prearrangements. We can be reached at 942-1117 or 769-0044.

Photo by Steve Euvino

This is the Bailly homestead as it stands today. It is part of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore National Park Service.

Pioneer recalls early days on the Kankakee

Editor's Note: *the following article, by Kankakee Valley pioner J.A. Little, was written in 1884. It was reprinted in 1934, as part of the History of Lake County, Indiana, and is printed here with the permission of the Lake County Historical Society.*

By J.A. Little

That this country has abounded with game is without a doubt. A paradise for hunters rivaling the mystic happy hunting grounds of the red man, affording an industry for first the Indians and afterwards the white man, for a period of not less than two hundred years, at this writing is not entirely exhausted.

LaSalle, in his journal of his journey down the Kankakee December, 1679, spoke of capturing a buffalo over what is now the state line in Illinois, and said that large herds had passed south, and Indians were following the game, showing that buffalo were then plenty here.

The common tradition is that a snow storm overtook and destroyed the buffalo on the Illinois prairies huddled together in the sloughs by the thousands about one hundred and twenty-five years ago, and none returned afterward. I was told the same by a man who had lived with the Indians before 1830, and he believed the tradition.

Thirty years ago I owned land in Iroquois County, Illinois, about 20 miles south of Kankakee City. In many of the sloughs the ground was covered with bones, no heads, backbones or ribs found, but thick short ones looking like hip and leg bones of some large animal. I have looked at them many times with a view of reaching the truth of the tradition and am of the opinion that something of the kind happened.

The beaver was no doubt the fur first sought by the traders. They were probably exterminated as they will not stand close trapping but migrate, even if they perish in the undertaking.

In Newton County there is a dam a half mile or more long on the northeast side of Beaver lake to keep it from flowing north into Kankakee River, thus giving the beaver a continuous height of water in the lake. Many remains of old dams in this county indicated that at some time they were numerous.

I conjecture the consideration received by the Pottawatomies for their furs was very small -- perhaps about in this proportion: a big pile of beaver skins in one side of the scales, a jug of rum or a musket, an iron hatchet, some beads, a few yards of bright cloth, and, the trader's foot in the other scale so that the scales just balanced.

As the Indians acquired better arms and outfits of traps they probably produced large annual supplies of fur. The Frenchmen left not the scratch of a pen for a record.

When the Indians moved in 1836 the white hunters took their places and established what was called "trappers' claims" which were bought and sold and generally held good for twenty-five years.

I have visited several of their camps. They are usually single men or widowers who delighted in, and were fascinated with their calling. Nothing could win them from it, they following it down to old age. One hunter died in camp on River Ridge at the age of 70. He had shot sixty deer the fall before.

For a time after the Indians left, the deer increased in numbers considerably, but as the settlements became more and more numerous, they gradually diminished until within the last ten years few have been killed.

Otter, raccoon, mink and muskrats have been the principal fur bearing animals. Wolves were quite troublesome. I have done my full part to exterminate them, killed one timber grey, and claim the largest number of scalps on the records for bounty of any one in this county.

About 1870 or a year or two before two old Potawatomies came back and trapped by consent about Sugar Grove. The white trapper had sprung a few of their traps and hung them on their trap stakes before knowing who had set them. They never took them down though urged to do so, but went away in the spring leaving them hanging. They also left a very small canoe which was said to be worse to ride than a mustang pony.

Hey, coach

Richard Demaree, center, was instrumental in both starting football at Merrillville and coaching the winning tradition we still enjoy today. He went 6-3-1 in 1948.

NO GUESSWORK IN VISION EXAM

"State of the art eye examination equipment at our offices helps to eliminate guesswork and enhances our level of professionalism," said Dr. Robert Moses.

The prominent Northwest Indiana optometrist is shown here using the new Humphrey Automatic Refractor -- one of several technologically advanced examination aides in the office. The computer recommends a prescription for eye glasses or contact lenses.

"With the computerized auto refractor, we can determine the approximate prescription in about 15 seconds," Moses said.

Fifteen seconds hardly compares with frustrating eye exams where patients who need corrective lenses will remember being asked "which is better -- 1 or 2?"

"A patient just looks at lines of letters in the refractor and is shown larger letters until he can read them. At that point, we push a button, the refractor scans the eye and recommends a prescription. Automatically, the patient will be looking through the recommended prescription," Dr. Moses said.

There is nothing magical about the new technology. Progress in the eye health industry continues to further the science.

"We must keep up with current technology if our patients are to receive the quality eye care they deserve," Moses said.

Offices are located at 8687 Connecticut St., Merrillville and 111 Deanna Dr., Lowell.

Left to right: Dr. Connie Cleary, Dr. Richard Cleary, Patsy Baum and Brigitte Bonner.

Dr. Connie M. Cleary & Dr. Richard F. Cleary

—Foot Specialists—

In a lifetime feet carry the average person approximately 75,000 miles. And together they absorb about 1,000 tons of force a day - much of it on hard pavement. Too often they are overworked or crammed into shoes that don't fit. It's easy to see why 4 out of 5 adults eventually suffer from foot problems. Some of the most common foot problems are:

Ingrown toenails are very common and usually involve the big toe. If improperly treated they can become infected. Self care includes trimming nails straight across. A podiatrist can permanently remove the portion of nail causing the problem.

Corns and Calluses are thickenings of skin and are caused by friction or rubbing. Corns appear on the tops of toes and calluses appear on the soles of feet. Both can be treated safely and comfortably.

Plantar Warts may appear like calluses but they are viral infections that occur on the soles of the foot. Treatment includes debridement and application of agents to rid you of the wart.

Bunions occur at the base of the big toe and they appear as bumps. They are bony problems that can cause irritation and swelling of the surrounding skin. Treatment includes removing a portion of the bone and realigning the toe.

Heel Pain is usually due to an inflammation of the soft tissue (fascia) that runs along the bottom of the foot. A bony spur may also be involved. Treatment includes a steroid injection to reduce the inflamation. Other treatments may include removal of the spur.

If you have any foot problems, please let us help you. Phone for an appointment:

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Left to right, Michelle Riley, bride, and new owners Fran Nolan and Rosa Maggio.

Bridal Boutique

For the budget minded or extravagant it's the...Bridal Boutique. Located at 337 Main Street in downtown Hobart. Owned and operated by the proud new owners, Fran Nolan and Rosa C. Maggio.

The Bridal Boutique offers a wide selection of beautiful gowns. Whether it's for a wedding, prom, or any special occasion, they have the dress and accessories for your every mood, season and affair, at a competitive price.

Nearly as important as the dress itself are the accessories. Gloves, both wrist and elbow length, are extremely popular, while hats, hoops, crinolines all add a feminine touch. Whether your wedding is traditional or modern, Fran and Rosa have everything to make your special day complete.

Nearly as important as the dress itself are the accessories. Gloves, both wrist and elbow length, are extremely popular, while hats, hoops, crinolines all add a feminine touch. Whether your wedding is traditional or modern, Fran and Rosa have everything to make your special day complete.

They are always busy keeping up with the latest fashions. Such as the popular tea-length dresses, which are suitable for many special occasions, such as, weddings, proms, graduation, communion, etc. Also offered, is a new line of Mother-To-Be gowns, and a wide variety of flower girl dresses to choose from. And also to help you save time, they offer a wide selection of wedding card and invitations that you may order from them.

Fran and Rosa also support many charities and organizations, such as the Hobart Police, County Police, State Police, school functions, and also supported the Hobart community live manger scene.

Whatever the occasion -- it begins with a pretty dress and proper coordination. Remember, whatever the choice of style, shopping early is a must. Fran and Rosa will be here to help assist you because they want your day to be as perfect as you do!

Farmer, outdoorsman both tout Kankakee Valley as best of its kind

by Rory Holscher

The Kankakee River Basin is really two valleys in one. That fact of geology partly explains the basin's special richness–its remarkable capacity for nurturing and renewing life.

About 750,000 years ago, the floor of the valley was much lower than it is today, and the sides were steeper. Then the glaciers came. Their weight leveled hills to the north, and when the last of them retreated, its meltwater streams spread tons of sand and gravel across the basin.

Now the old Kankakee valley lay buried under a newer one. The new valley's floor was flat: so flat, in fact, that when rain water ran down from the higher land to the north and south, and when groundwater rose from the depths of the buried valley in clear springs, they formed a river which just barely ran anywhere.

It meandered to the west, looping back on itself every few miles, stretching through 250 miles of twists and turns as it flowed the 50 miles between South Bend and the Indiana-Illinois border. To make it slower yet, there was a huge limestone ledge running across the basin near Momence, Ill. The ledge was a natural dam, and when the river ran high, the ledge backed up its floodwaters well into Indiana.

So there was no haste in the Kankakee's flow, and from an ecological point of view, there was no waste either. Centuries of runoff from the uplands carried precious nutrients into the valley; once there, the water slowed down so much that most of its nutrients settled onto the river bed or the flooded valley's floor. Nothing that life needed ran out.

For the Pottawatomie Indians, French fur traders and early English-speaking settlers, the valley was an Eden full of beaver and muskrat, deer and water fowl, wild cranberries and wild honey.

That bounty has diminished in the last 150 years, but legends about it persist.

For people like David C. Hudak, supervisor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Bloomington, Ind. office, legends of the Kankakee's past are as real as the thorny problems of managing the basin today.

"The Kankakee Marsh was the finest wetland complex in North America in the 18th and 19th centuries," Mr. Hudak says. "At times the river was from five to seven miles wide, and five feet deep. There was a two-mile tree border on both sides. It was damn near untamable. Even the Indians couldn't live on the damn thing, it was so tough.

"For biologists, it's a classic wildlife habitat. We'd all love to have seen it 200 years ago. The Kankakee dropped only five inches per mile in the old days. That meandering just spread it out."

Michael Aylesworth's perspective on the basin is quite different from Mr. Hudak's, but he's just as quick to use superlatives when he talks about what the Kankakee offers today. A farmer and Porter County commissioner, Mr. Aylesworth raises soybeans and corn on valley land that's been handed down through five generations of his family.

The land he favors lies close to the river, and in his great grandfather's day, the river's meanderings kept it so wet that it was suited only for pasture or making hay from wild marsh grasses. The land didn't come under the plow until the river was dredged and straightened around 1910.

Then, with the untamable Kankakee mostly tamed, with its 250 meandering miles reduced to seventy straight ones, farming in the basin came into its own.

"My bottom land is far superior; it's the best farm land I have today," Mr. Aylesworth says. "It's got a high water table – I can walk out in my yard and dig a hole and hit water at four feet. It's got a surplus of other soils washed down through centuries of erosion. It's naturally rich. It's got a high humus factor from laying in the marsh for centuries.

"Between the high water table, the alluvial (erosion-caused) deposits, and the high humus factor, it's some of the best farmland in the world."

The positions of both Mr. Hudak and Mr. Aylesworth have their ironies. It wasn't farmers, for instance, who killed off most of the once-abundant game in the basin. Beaver were gone by 1830, trapped out by the French and Pottawatomie who worked together to supply eastern and European fur markets.

Deer were gone by 1880, passenger pigeons by 1893, bald eagles by 1898, and most wood ducks by 1900. Over-hunting, often by the patrons of the numerous sportsman's clubs along the Kankakee, contributed to the disappearances of these and many other creatures from the basin.

Some species, like the deer, wood duck, and beaver, have come back strong. The passenger pigeons are gone forever, and whether eagles will ever return is anyone's guess.

What remains of the Kankakee's wildlife habitat must now be managed carefully to protect the resource while accommodating the range of interest groups – hunters, fishermen, bird-watchers, canoeists – who want to use it. From here on out, keeping parts of the Kankakee Basin wild will probably take as much forethought and labor as keeping parts of it under cultivation.

Farmers in the basin are feeling new pressures, too, as Mr. Aylesworth is quick to point out. "The average farmer, when I was in high school 25 years ago, probably farmed 200 acres. He didn't have much of an investment in draining (his fields), and if it took 10 days for them to drain, he didn't worry about it.

"But with us, who farm 2,000 acres, it costs too much to wait 10 days if we can drain it right away. And government tax policy has encouraged investment in draining. Drainage pipes can be taken as a capital improvement, and they can be depreciated."

As a result, many farmers in the basin have installed extensive drainage systems in their fields. The systems, made up of porous, buried pipe, give farmers the quick drainage they want. But ironically, Mr. Aylesworth says, the faster drainage has created higher flood peaks on the Kankakee and its tributaries.

And that means the river floods low-lying croplands more often.

An obvious solution would be to clear the river of snags or dredge it more deeply, but Mr. Aylesworth doubts that conservation interests will ever allow that to happen again.

"I've got a feeling that the day of dredging the river are about gone," he says. "Maybe limited stretches could be done, provided there's some mitigation for conservationists -- wildlife areas and such.

"The conservationists want a piece of high Nirvana, and they think they've found it down here (in the Kankakee Basin). The way the government works now, no one's got a monopoly on Nirvana. Once you have it, you've got to share it."

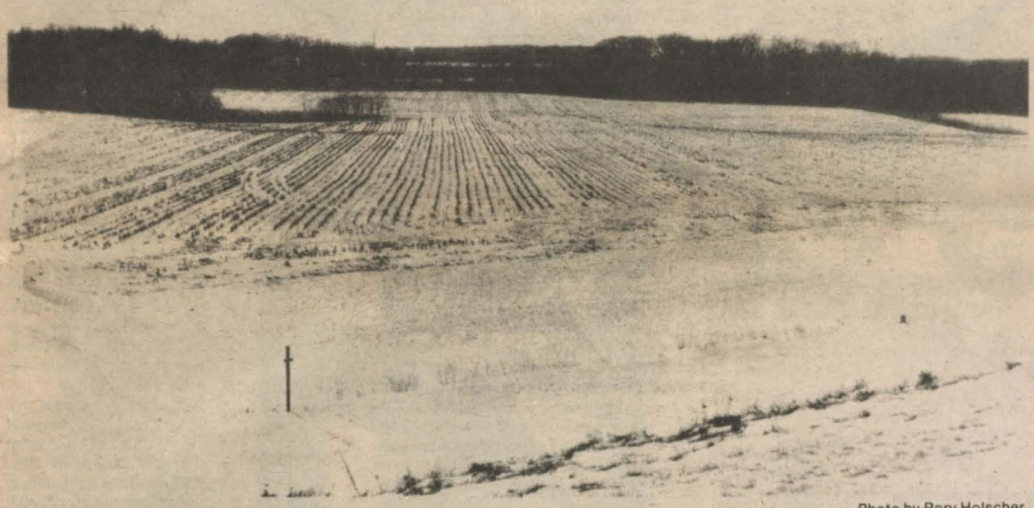

Photo by Rory Holscher

The wide, flat bottom of the Kankakee Valley is widely touted as some of the richest farm land in the state. It's also some of the wettest, a fact which has generated controversy between farmers who want flood control, and outdoor enthusiasts who fear flood control measures could destroy wildlife habitat. The two interest groups seem to have reached a compromise in the wide levee plan.

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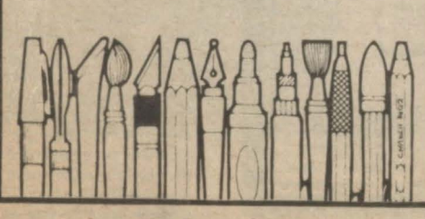

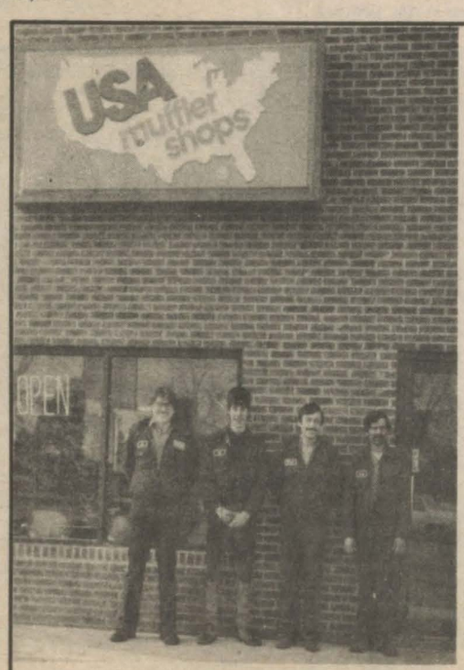

Left to right: Technicians Joe Higgins, Gus Tasikas. Owner Vange Proimos & "Kumar."

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Andy and Vange Proimos invite you to ask your questions by calling 947-2511, 980-8800, or 769-8191.

Boyd home

One of several historic properties tied to the Boyd clan in Merrillville, this old home rests on 73rd Avenue just east of Broadway. The Boyds were a pioneer people, arriving in Ross Township in 1848. At one time, over 1,000 acres of prime farming real estate was owned by the family. As the history of the Boyds go, along with a few other families in the history of Merrillville, so goes the town.

Hoosier hoop hysteria

For you trivia buffs, here's just the thing for you: the scoring leaders in Indiana high school basketball.

Among the one-season scoring leaders, Dave Shepherd of Carmel is tops with 1,079 points for a 37.2 average. That came in 1970. Thirteen years later, New Castle's Steve Alford hit 1,078 points for an identical 37.2 per game average. George McGinnis, the former Pacer and Sixer, hit 1,019 points in 1969 for Indianapolis Washington.

Other notables in the top 20 were Delray Brooks of Rogers, who had 970 points in 1984 and Anderson's Troy Lewis, who in that same year had 918 points. Lebanon's Rick Mount, the Purdue shooting star, scored 861 points in 1966. Peru's Kyle Macy, now a member of the Bulls, scored 847 points in 1975. Plymouth's Scott Skiles, now a starter for Michigan, had 846 points in 1982.

Former Rogers star Dan Palombizio, the nation's leading returning scorer from Ball State, hit 795 points in 1981. Larry Bird, the pride of Indiana State, the Celtics, and French Lick, hit 764 points in 1974 for Springs Valley, while in 1956 Oscar "Big O" Robertson also had 764 points for Crispus Attucks.

Phil Wills, playing for Grass Creek, owns the state record with a 42.4 per game scoring average in 1957. Billy James had 69 points in one game in 1969 for Scottsburg.

In career scoring, Lewisville's Marion Pierce is the leader with 3,042 after the 1961 season; Mount (1966) is second with 2,595; Carmel's Billy Shepherd (1968) is third with 2,465; Brooks is fifth with 2,324; Macy is eighth with 2,137; Alford is ninth with 2,116; Palombizio is 10th with 2,092; and McGinnis is 11th with 2,070.

In girls' hoops, Northwest Indiana boasts four of the top five career scoring leaders. Austin's Jodie Whitaker had 789 points in 1985 and finished with 2,073 for first place. Then come four local products: Crown Point's Anne Kvachkoff (1985) is second with 1,910; fellow Lady Bulldog Nancy Cowan (1984) is third with 1,778; East Chicago Roosevelt's LaTauya Pollard (1979) is fourth with 1,701; and Lew Wallace's Sonya Carter (1985) is fifth with 1,640.

Kvachkoff had a 21.8 per game scoring average in 1985, while Carter was right behind with 21.7. Cowan averaged 21.5 points in 1984 and Pollard hit 21.4 average in 1979. The state girls' record for per game scoring average belongs to Austin's Lisa Goodin, who connected at a 30.9 clip for the Eagles.

99 Years and counting.

DEAR CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS:

First organized in 1887, Indiana Federal is now entering its 99th year of uninterrupted service to northern Indiana communities. Indiana Federal is the largest home-based financial institution in Porter County and the second largest savings and loan institution in the state with year-end assets of $449.5 million. Growth in assets, while reflecting progress, is not our most important goal. We measure progress by the quality of service this institution offers its ever increasing family of customers.

Indiana Federal had a successful and profitable year in 1985. Declining interest rates, which lowered the cost of funds and increased the net margin, contributed significantly to the 1985 earnings picture. The strength of the association is reflected in its excellent reserve position which increased 15.5 percent over 1984.

The association had a record year of lending with new loan volume exceeding $80 million. Savings increased over $22 million as customers took advantage of longer term savings investments.

As deregulation continues in the financial industry, we look forward to the future with enthusiasm and optimism. We pledge to continue the prudent judgment and management which has made the association what it is today.

All of us at Indiana Federal enjoyed serving you in 1985, and we look forward to another fine year in 1986.

Sincerely,
INDIANA FEDERAL
Peter R. Candela
President

Statement of Condition
As of December 31, 1985

ASSETS	
Mortgage Loans	$333,205,849
All Other Loans	52,647,191
Real Estate Owned	1,852,778
Loans to Facilitate Sale of Real Estate	614,153
Cash on Hand and in Banks	9,819,034
Investments and Securities	36,845,212
Fixed Assets, Less Depreciation	7,201,499
Deferred Charges and other Assets	7,339,679
TOTAL ASSETS	$449,525,395
LIABILITIES	
Savings Deposits	$399,523,363
Advances from Federal Home Loan Bank	13,000,000
Other Borrowed Money	11,256,985
Advance Payments by Borrowers for Taxes and Insurance	1,638,071
Other Liabilities	4,194,861
Retained Earnings	19,912,115
TOTAL LIABILITIES	$449,525,395
Interest Paid to Savers for Year 1985	$34,172,600

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Rich school history in Ross

School systems in the Calumet Region sprang from very humble beginnings in the 1800's, until today some of the finest institutes of learning now are housed in the county of Lake. Like many rural regions around the country at the time, early settlers had little time for formal education, especially for males and older children.

There were crops to sow and reap, fields to clear, houses to build, and prairies to be tamed as the first white inhabitants of Northwest Indiana sought to secure a subsistence from the fertile, dark soil south of the Calumet River.

Another restricting factor was a general sentiment against public schooling.

Inadequate roads, usually consisting of old Indian trails and matted down paths created by farmers curbed hopes of travel throughout the region for much of the middle 1800's. And sparsely populated areas lended little credence to those who wished to hold lessons for the children of the era.

In 1850, Valparaiso was the only incorporated town in the vicinity, with just over 520 people there. Center Township boasted nearly a thousand, and North township, which was to come Whiting, Hammond, and East Chicago, had just 97 residents, none of which attended formal schools of any variety.

Another restricting factor of the day was a general sentiment against public schooling. Many folks had a prejudice against schooling for anybody and everybody, and most farmers refused to pay taxes to finance such a system. Churches also protested schools where children of all denominations might meet, along with non-believers, and be taught by a system over which the church could not control.

Despite the misgivings, the Calumet Region was better off educationally than much of the rest of the state, a point many people argue still exists today. One third of the settlers of this area came from such progressive areas as Pennsylvania, New York, and the New England states as well as Europe. These people were used to the idea of schools, and wanted their children to do the same.

The lack of qualified teachers hindered early attempts at forming pioneer schools, a fact that drove many of the first area graduates to continue education and return here to teach in later years.

Harriet Warner Holton is credited as the first teacher to conduct classes in the Lake County area, opening a classroom in 1835 at Lake Court House in what was to become Crown Point. A widow, she was educated in Massachusetts and was a former instructor in Vermont before heading for the frontier of Indiana.

Five years later, Hervey Ball opened the second such facility, near present day Cedar Lake. It consisted of a boarding school and academy that taught the basics as well as botany, Latin, philosophy, painting, and drawing.

By 1848, Ross officially became a township and 16 school districts could be found within its borders.

The academy is reputed to have had the largest library in Lake County for many years, and at least two literary societies are said to have sprung from the available literature. the academy lasted 16 years.

In 1847, William Townley opened the Crown Point Literary Institute, a popular school opened with the idea of producing teachers in mind. Although other students were accepted, Mr. Townley wanted to produce quality instructors to branch out into other regions of the state.

Everything from Latin to surveying was taught, along with algebra and geometry. Tuition ranged up to $3.50 a quarter, which consisted of five day a week classes for twelve weeks.

The school only lasted until 1856, as it buckled under the burden of finance and poor relationships between Townley and the Presbyterian Church. Highly successful during its tenure, the school is said to have produced almost all of the women teachers in the region for several years.

Merrillville schools had an even more humble beginning. Few public schools were started in the Ross Township area, although a few surfaced here and there in the early years.

In 1838, teaching in the home began in what was then known as Centerville and in 1840 a log building was built to be used as a schoolhouse near what is today the Chatterbox Lounge. Teachers were paid $14 a month and boarded at student's homes. Water was carried to the school by hand, and cords of wood were donated by families as part of their tuition.

Despite community misgivings, Dr. Iddings launched his high school with three pupils in 1896.

By 1848, Ross officially became a township and 16 school districts could be found within its borders. By 1896, the districts had consolidated into the Ross Township system.

A Sunday school began in 1850 in an old frame building at 73rd and Broadway, and in 1852 Township Trustee P.M. Knoll laid down basic rules for a school; teachers were paid $15 a month. The location of the school is uncertain. A Mrs. Richard Vincent taught seven pupils from her home beginning in 1844, and teaching in the home was prevalent until a school building was constructed in 1859.

The first brick school building in Merrillville was constructed around 1865 where the Town Hall now stands. It was only the second brick school in Lake County.

Higher education began to be seriously considered when Dr. Homer Iddings, a man ahead of his time, took office as Ross Township Trustee. Dr. Iddings foresight dictated that a better system was needed in Merrillville, and in 1896, Merrillville offered the first ever high school courses here.

Those classes were taught at the freshman and sophomore levels only, as those wishing to continue in school had to attend finishing schools in either Crown Point or Gary to complete diploma requirements.

Despite community misgivings, Dr. Iddings launched his high school with three pupils in 1896. The three, Cora Pierce, Christina Lennertz, and Alta Halstead, all became teachers. Later, Miss Halstead passed the writers bar examination, only the fourth woman in Lake County to do so. She then opened a legal office in Hobart.

Former Ross trustee Roy Hack, who is credited with consolidating the many school districts and opening the first four year high school in Merrillville.

Dr. Iddings plans worked out so well that one of his successors, F.M. Pierce, began construction on a new school in 1901. Mr. Pierce razed the old building and built the Ross Township School, now the Town Hall, in 1902.

The Ainsworth school near Deep River on Highway 51 was also in operation at the time.

The expansion of both the education ethic and the Ross Township population dictated to another trustee, Roy Hack, that a complete system of education was needed, and the plans for the first four-year high school began.

The first class took their seats in 1922, and the first four graduates of Ross Township (Merrillville) High school received their honors in 1928. Those first four graduates were Marcella Franz, Laverne Niksch, Lloyd Schnabel, and Ray Loyce.

Three years earlier, Mr. Hack had consolodated the then two high schools -- Ainsworth and Ross Township, into one facility. Miss Olive Wood, loved still today by students, was one of the first and certainly the best known teachers at Merrillville. She also served as assistant principal for the new consolidated school.

In 1929, the year of the stock market crash, a high school was built on the present day site of Pierce Junior High. Named after president Warren Harding, the school burned to the ground just a year later. Immediately re-erected, the new school on the same site operated as the high school until the present day facility was built in 1954. Parts of the original structure may be found at the Junior High.

In 1964, the schools were removed from the jurisdiction of the Ross Township Trustee and a school corporation was formed. Today, Merrillville has eight schools, over 9000 students, multi-million dollar budgets, computers, and a state football championship trophy in the hallway.

By Rick A. Spicer

The first four graduates

Lloyd Snabel

Ray Loyce

Marcella Franz

Laverne Niksch

The first class to complete all four years in Merrillville.

46 years toiling in the mills

Ledgers reflect patterns in a man's life

By Tim Sosbe

A lot can be learned about a person's life by looking over their financial records. Wages made through a lifetime of work, things purchased, bills and taxes paid. All of these can paint a picture of a person and show the changing state of the economy.

In the Calumet Regional Archives, located in the Indiana University Northwest library, are three ledgers kept throughout the first half of the century by Robert Paulsen, a mill worker from 1911 to 1957.

Mr. Paulsen came to Gary on Sept. 10, 1911 from Davenport, Iowa, where he was born in 1892. He worked in the Gary Steel Mill until 1913. Then he moved to Detroit until December of the same year.

He returned to Gary until 1919. Mr. Paulsen then went back to Detroit for five months. From February, 1920, until March, 1922, he worked at Inland Steel. For the next eight months, he once again worked in Detroit.

In October of 1922, Mr. Paulsen started work at Inland Steel Plant 2, where he spent the next 35 years of his life in different jobs, including open hearth inspector, assistant electrical foreman and electrical foreman.

The youngest of Mr. Paulsen's three children, Evelyn Glennie, currently lives in Lake Station. She can recall hearing about her father's mill work.

"He was made foreman at one time but he had reached the age where he was making as much money as anybody that was promoted there and he couldn't take the pressure (of being a foreman). So he asked to be put back to assistant," she said,

His ledgers show how much money Mr. Paulsen made in three time periods: 1911-13; 1917 and 1918; and 1942 through his retirement in 1957. They also show the amount of taxes paid, amount of everyday expenses and some items purchased.

In the early days of working in Gary and Detroit, Mr. Paulsen made around $900 per year, which was an average of $35 every two weeks. In those early days in Gary he lived in two different boarding houses, paying $4.50 and $5 per week.

In 1917 he made $855 at Inland Steel and $2435 there in 1918.

The ledger containing financial information from 1942 to 1957 is by far the most extensive. It contains itemized lists of checks, deductions, and taxes paid.

In the 16 years recorded here, Mr. Paulsen made between $3,730 in 1942 and $10,179 in his last full year of work in 1956. The books show a nearly steady increase in pay throughout the years.

Mrs. Glennie said that in his life, her father made good money for that time period. She remembers her mother spending about $100 every two weeks at the grocery store and everyone thinking that was extremely high.

The most interesting part of the ledgers are not what Mr. Paulsen made, but what he spent. He kept records of car repairs, bonds he purchased and sold every year and hospital and doctor bills for his wife, Mattie. He also records miscellaneous items purchased, such as the new 1955 Chevrolet he purchased from Christenson Chevrolet in Griffith for a total of $2,169.

Mrs. Glennie was talked into donating the ledgers to the archives by her nephew, John Kristelli, who is in graduate school at Indiana University Bloomington studying museum science.

"I got to thinking," she said. "They wouldn't mean anything to my kids. They were just sentimental to me and there was nothing really important in them. But maybe sometime the great grandkids will want to go look through them. You should keep that stuff."

Although the ledgers can give you an idea of Mr. Paulsen's character, talking wih Mrs. Glennie paints a vivid portrait of her father. She tells many stories of him and how he lived.

She tells how he left his own retirement party early, how the Paulsen family lost their home during the depression and his feelings on automobiles and the expressways.

But the clearest of the images is the one expressed in both Mrs. Glennie's stories and the ledgers -- the portrait of a man whose entire life was given to the mills.

In the early days he worked 16 hours a day for salary, not hourly, pay. Later that was reduced to 12 hours a day. In many strikes, especially one in 1937 when efforts were made to unionize the mill, Mr. Paulsen had to be locked in with other management personnel.

During that 1937 strike, when his daughter, Harriett, wanted to marry, she had to call her father at the mill for permission because he couldn't leave.

"He always said 'I can't let it be said 'cause I would get fired, but I think the unions are the best thing that ever happened to the working man,'" Mrs. Glennie recalls fondly. "He couldn't belong himself but he said it did more for workers than anything else. He was a good person."

Mr. Paulsen retired on Jan. 31, 1957. He passed away nearly two years later in Mrs. Glennie's home in Griffith. She still recalls his devotion to the mills and is distressed by the unemployment in the area today.

"It would have broken his heart the way the mills are right now," she said. "He used to say if you can't find work in Gary or Chicago, you weren't looking."

Basketball has always been an important part of life in Indiana, especially in the northwestern part of the state. One of the first organized teams in the area, Merrillville's five in 1931 finished a disappointing 8-10-1. Team members were, front; Raymond Kitchel, Leonard Meyer, Glenn Giertz, Ken Bullock, and Milton Schults. Back; Richard Hacker, Clifford Sader, Elwood Hoeppner, Stanley White, Fred Fager and Coach Kenneth Hauk.

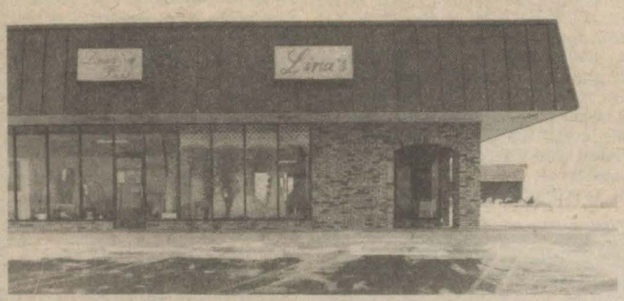
Girl hoops history here

Sports have always had a great tradition in Merrillville High School circles. This 1931 girls basketball team outscored opponents 378-283 en route to an 11-5 record. The girls, coached by Ethel Lammel, were front: Carmen Pierce, Mildred Franz, Mabel Walker, Alsie Burge, and Ruth Woods. Back: Virginia Halstead, Mildred Kurhl, Magdalene Snyder, Coach Lemmel, Alice Weller, and Guinevere Forney.

Lina's Bridal & Tux Shoppe

2274 U.S. 30 WEST VALPARAISO

Telephone (219) 464-9248



Lina's Bridal and Tux Shoppe is conveniently located at 2274 U.S. 30 West in the WiseWay Shopping Center, Valparaiso, Ind.

Lina Dominick, owner, started her present business in 1972, and has grown to her present 10 employees, with Shirley Frazier as manager.

Selling Bridal Gowns, Bridesmaids, Flowergirls, Mothers' Dresses, Prom Gowns, Formal Dresses, Shoe Dyeing, Gown Preservation, Invitations, Accessories and Tuxedo Rental, is the General Nature of business at Lina's Bridal and Tux Shoppe.

Lina's have professional Bridal Consultants and Experienced Seamstresses. They are large enough for all bridal needs, but small enough to care. Lina's often restores Mothers' Gowns, so the daughter can wear them.

They carry a wide range of sizes from petite through large and half sizes. They also have a large selection to choose from in all areas of the shoppe.

They are members of the National Bridal Service and try to support all community projects whenever possible. Also, they participate in THASC-Handicapped Sales.

Lina professionally dyes shoes, purses, headpieces, and the newest addition to the accessories department, dyeable earrings. They have matching gowns and accessories for flowergirls and bridesmaids.

At Lina's they register prom gowns as they are purchased, so the duplicate gowns are not sold to the same school.

At Lina's Bridal and Tux Shoppe, WE DO CARE!!

Jim Finan, Owner.

HOBART HARDWARE & WALLPAPER

Hobart Hardware & Wallpaper, located at 302 Main Street in downtown Hobart, is owned and managed by Jim and Marilyn Finan. Founded in 1951, it has been serving the community for 35 years.

Hobart Hardware carries a general line of hardware, paints, art supplies, picture framing, window treatments, and wallpaper.

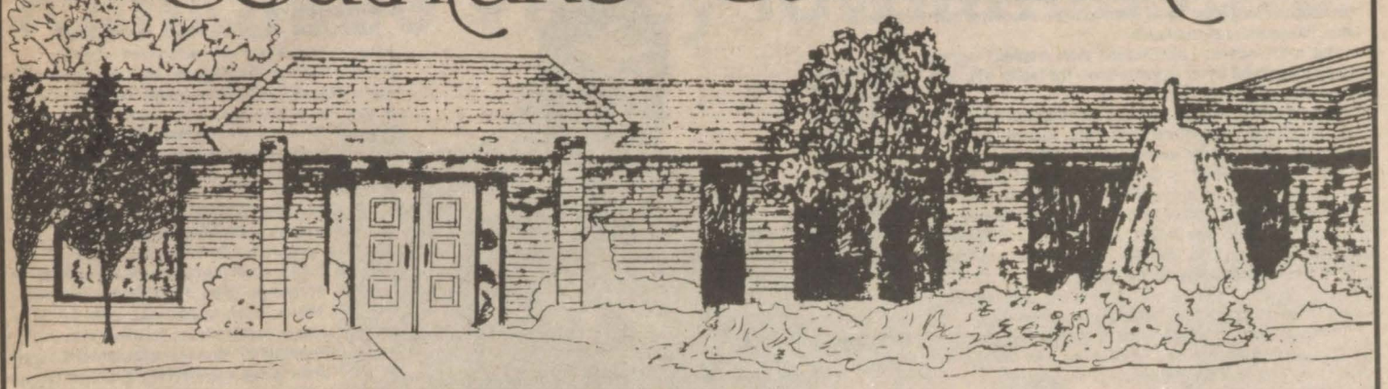
Marilyn has the finest selection of wallpaper. She offers her help in coordinating wallcoverings, and draperies to help create the look you want! Wallpaper and paint are both inexpensive tools that can produce some very creative results.

Additional services offered at Hobart Hardware are professional wallpaper hanging and custom made draperies.

Hobart Hardware supports many organizations, such as the Hobart Chamber of Commerce, Hobart Rotary Club, Hobart Planning Commission and the Hobart Board of Zoning Appeals.

So, for all of your home improvement needs, stop in at Hobart Hardware -- where you always find what you're looking for!

Southlake Care Center



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- ★ Participation in Medicare, Medicaid, and V.A. programs, as well as private insurance if applicable.
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Lualyce C. Brown, FACHCA
Administrator

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Southlake Care Center

located directly behind Methodist Hospital's Southlake Campus

8800 Virginia Place
Merrillville, IN 46410
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Military collector meets father he never knew through letters sent home during W W II

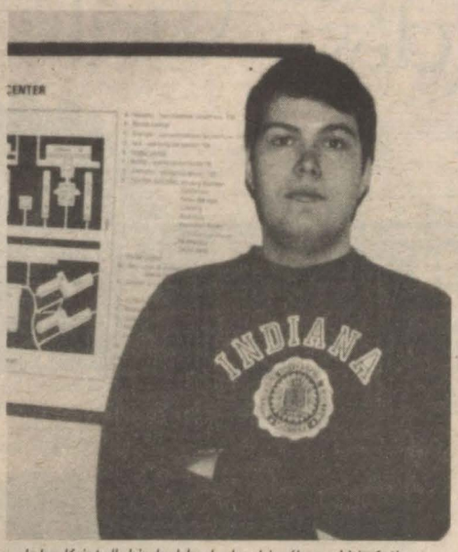
By Tim Sosbe

Getting in touch with the past can be a complicated matter. Trying to make a connection between people or philosophies long-gone would seem to some a hopeless mission, like jousting at windmills.

But a 22-year-old Lake Station man wouldn't agree. Even today he is trying to get to know the father who died when he was six months old.

John Kristelli, who is now studying museum science in graduate school at Indiana University, Bloomington, began collecting military memorabilia in 1976. He seems to have capped a hobby by donating letters written by his father to his mother during World War II to the Calumet Regional Archives located in the IU Northwest library.

Robert Kristelli was drafted into the Army in January of 1944. He left his wife, Harriett, for more than two years, to return in March of 1946 with one leg.



John Kristell: his hobby helps him 'know' his father.

Camp Atterbury, Ind.

Jan. 5, 1944 – *"Babe, write and tell me how you're coming on the money situation, house payments and such things as that. It's been a long time since I heard from you and sure am anxious to hear. I love you, Babe, always remember that."*

Jan. 11, 1944 – *"They fixed the radio and now we get all the programs and music from the states. I am homesick as hell, Babe. I think it's the Guy Lombardo music on the radio."*

John started his collecting with things that had belonged to his father. "Like most collectors you start with what was your father's, you like it and you want more," he said. John stressed that even though he started with his father's things, he now has a genuine interest in collecting.

All he has that belonged to the father he never knew are his Purple Heart medal, his Bronze Star, rosary beads, a Bible and "A little tin box with his things, including little pieces of shrapnel." And of course the letters.

Feb. 8, 1944 – *"I am pretty sure we'll be shipped out tomorrow. Anyway I hope so. You'll probably know sooner than I will. They send a notice to the Gary Post Tribune so look for it. My arm is sore from saluting every officer that happens to come by. As much as I peep out of the door before I go outside of the barracks, I still run into them."*

Camp Walthers, Texas

Feb. 19, 1944–*"Hi, honey. I got your package and I almost cried. I didn't know you had a letter inside the package and I thought I would have to wait another day for the letter. You don't know the feelings you get after you don't get any letter for over two weeks. Then you get one that just makes tears come to your eyes."*

According to John, his father was the son of a Polish immigrant. Robert Kristelli learned to speak English on the streets of Gary. He dropped out of high school to work in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). He was also in the Works Progress Administration (WPA), both programs administered by Franklin Roosevelt during the depression.

He was an infantryman in the U.S. Army, First Division, 18th Infantry -- "The Big Red One." Other soldiers used to call him "Pops," because he was 27 and had survived 11 battles.

John said he went through his entire childhood not making the connection between himself and his father. He said his mother would mention BK (Bob Kristelli) and finally John asked who that was.

Robert was still at Camp Walthers, Texas when he wrote the following letter.

Apr. 12, 1944 – *"Honey, don't make any plans on coming out here until you get word from me because a lot of guys are going over the hill (A.W.O.L.) and they are trying to take it out on us by taking weekend passes away from us.*

I never asked for a weekend pass, but I intended to. A few guys up here had their wives come out here and they wouldn't let them go out even to the service club to see them. So you see unless things change I don't know what to do. I miss you, honey, believe me and I sure would want you here, but if they wouldn't let me out to see you that would drive me crazy."

Sadly for John, he says he really didn't know the difference of not having a father. "There was almost no jealousy towards my friends' fathers. I wondered why I didn't feel jealous, but I didn't know the difference. I feel I would have been better had I had a father. But my mom was both mother and father to me," he said. Harriett Kristelli died on Dec. 10, 1985, 22 years after Robert passed away.

Aug. 14, 1944 – *"I know we spent a lot of money on my furlough, honey, but we did have a pretty good time in what few days we had. I hope the war ends soon, so we won't have to worry about time."*

In this same letter, Bob Kristelli warned his wife that he was heading overseas and after that his letters would be censored, so he wouldn't write as much as he'd like. On Sept. 7, 1944, according to his Army Discharge Record, he was shipped overseas to join the war.

Harriett and John Kristelli at a WWI monument in Michigan City.

Oct. 21, 1944 – *"I don't care to say anything about action I've seen. It's not a pleasant subject....I wished I had a picture taken of me today, just to show you how I looked after not shaving or even washing for so long. My hair is so long it's covering up my ears and neck. But it does keep me warm. My feet have been wet for so long I wouldn't know how it feels to have dry feet."*

From a collector's point of view, John says he has surprisingly little that belonged to his father. "He was lucky to come back in one piece," he said, using a figure of speech.

When he first came across the letters, he read them and talked with his mother about his father and the letters. "I earned respect for them out of the belief she felt," he said.

Oct. 30, 1944 – *"I really am homesick, Babe, so please keep the home fires burning 'til I come home, that is if I ever get out of it alive. I know the people in the states have this war won, but if they were here with us for awhile, they would wait 'til we got home to celebrate victory."*

Oct. 31, 1944 – *"We're still in a rest area, but it will be over soon and then back to the front."*

Nov. 3, 1944 – *"Honey, I am really the happiest man in the world. Today I got six letters you wrote. So you can imagine how I feel after not getting any mail for over two months."*

The next day, Robert was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. According to his son, this badge is for serving a long period of time. Two days after that, he was nearly killed.

John had heard the story from his mother on how his father was injured. He had been part of the campaign that liberated Wachen, the first town in Germany to be freed.

Robert was on patrol with two other soldiers when a mortar shell landed nearby. The man in front was killed, the man in back blinded. Soldiers found them, though Robert was dead and covered him with a sheet. They later discovered he was still breathing.

According to a small article clipped from the Gary Post Tribune by Harriett, Robert had told her he had minor injuries, including a broken hand. A government telegram alerted her that things were worse.

Robert was sent to a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, then a hospital in Paris and finally shipped back on the Queen Mary to recuperate at Lawson General Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. Before he was sent home, he spent nearly 18 months in hospitals where complications forced the amputation of his leg. John said his father carried bits of boot leather embedded in his good leg for the rest of his life.

Sept. 6, 1945 (written in Lawson General Hospital, Atlanta, Ga. – *"Boy, I can't get over Eddie wearing three battle stars on his ribbon. A guy who's never seen any combat, especially. I could wear 11 stars, but I just want credit for what I am entitled to not what my division is credited with. I just can't see it. If I see him with them, I'll tear them off."*

March 6, 1946 – *"I'll get my discharge Friday afternoon. I hope it's a nice day when I get home."*

Because of his injury, Robert could no longer work in the mill. He went to a Gary business school and took accounting courses. He was an accountant when he died. John said he even did the books for a business called Liverpool Paint and Hardware.

John said his mother often told him that Robert wasn't hampered by his lost leg. John said his mother treasured a picture of Robert on a ladder, painting the house while wearing his wooden leg.

Robert and Harriett Kristelli had five children. They are Robert Jr. (1951), who lives in Indianapolis; Kathy (1953), who lives in Lansing, Ill.; William (1954), who lives in Lake Station; Debbie (1960), who passed away in 1973; and John (1963), currently in Bloomington, Ind.

In a sad post note to his war injury, Robert Kristelli died from a heart attack in November of 1963, 19 years after being injured. Doctors said the heart attack was caused by a blood clot that came loose in his injured leg.

Later in the month, Harriett Kristelli received a certificate recognizing the loss of her husband from President John Kennedy. Coincidentally, history interceded here. The certificate was post-marked Nov. 22, 1963, the day Kennedy was assassinated.

Along with the certificate, they received a flag which John says was donated by Harriett to Evans School.

"I feel I would have liked to know my father," John said. "In a small way it (collecting) brings me closer. I'm proud of what my father did and sorry I never knew him."

Bog swallows train -- it's not sci-fi; this really happened

Editor's note: This report appeared in an area newspaper -- we don't know which one -- in May of 1959.

A report came out of the National Steel Co. plantsite east of Ogden Dunes in Porter County the other day that diggers excavating for foundation work had uncovered an old steam locomotive.

The Michigan City News-Dispatch published an item about the find and the next week, a retired New York Central telegrapher called in to say he remembered the case of a locomotive disappearing in a bog back in 1906 or '07.

It happened on the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad, which was the name by which the New York Central line between Buffalo and Chicago was then known. A work train from Chicago had been operating on a spur when the track began to sink under the weight of the locomotive, six cars and a caboose.

Relief crews and engine managed to get the caboose and half the cars back onto a firm stretch of track before darkness fell. When they came back the next morning, prepared to remove the LS & MS engine and the remaining cars, they found no trace of them.

"For all anybody knew, they'd sunk into the peat and had kept right on going," said the News-Dispatch informant.

Apparently this stretch of track had been laid in an area where drifting sand had covered over a peat bog. There could be many such places in the land where firms plan to erect steel mills in Porter County. If so, they will make mill construction extra-expensive.

When the Indiana Toll Road was being built four years ago, one contractor ran into such a bog along the right-of-way in LaPorte County. To make sure the road was on a firm foundation, the entire bog had to be dug up -- a hole something like 50 feet deep and several hundred feet long -- and then the entire stretch had to be filled in with solid earth and sand.

"The land that God forgot to finish"

State's study may determine Kankakee Valley lowlands fate

Lorenzo Werich, an early settler in the Kankakee Basin, once called it "The land that God forgot to finish."

He was referring to the sprawling Grand Kankakee Marsh, with its meandering river, semi-habitable sand islands, and thousands of acres of wetland.

If Mr. Werich were alive today, he might feel obliged to comment that despite a century of effort by human beings with various intentions, the land's not finished yet.

In fact, the next big step toward figuring out a final shape for the Kankakee lowlands won't be takeen until July, 1987. That's the scheduled completion date for a $250,000 computer model currently being assembled by the Indiana Soil Conservation Service.

Farmers, politicians, and wildlife officials are hoping that the huge computer model will tell them where and how to build a system of "wide levees" in the basin. The idea behind the wide levee system is to protect some croplands from flooding by the Kankakee River, without dredging the river or removing snags and living trees.

Conservationists also hope the wide levees will create a natural corridor along both sides of the river. David C. Hudak, supervisor at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service' Bloomington, Ind. office, says he wants to see land inside the levees purchased by the state or various counties. The land could eventually become a series of parks and nature preserves.

"You can't go back to the old days of the Grand Kankakee Marsh, which had half a million acres of the best wetland in North America," says Mr. Hudak. "But you can't have a straight ditch either."

The wide levee idea originated several decades ago, but farmers and political leaders in the basin didn't warm up to it quickly. Instead they concentrated their flood-control efforts on ditching and maintaining the Kankakee's tributaries, and on attempting to clean the channel of the Kankakee itself.

Their approach didn't change until 1983, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers refused to grant a permit for a $500,000 project of snag and tree removal from the river and its banks. Denied that option, the agriculturists began taking a new interest in the wide-levee plan.

"Every time we try to (clean the river), we run into problems--lawsuits and so forth," says Ken Swanson, a farmer and member of the Kankakee River Basin Commission. "We need an alternative. There's much waste land down there, and if we can harness that for storage of water at high times, that's the best answer to flooding that we can give."

"It (the wide-levee plan) has something for everybody," says Michael Aylesworth, former president of the commission. "It's sort of like the proverbial Christmas-tree bills in Congress, that they always hurry up and pass so they adjourn for the holidays.

"If that's what it takes to get done a little of what we in the agricultural sector need to get done, then the taxpayers are going to have to foot the bill."

No one has an inkling yet how big that bill will be, though Mr. Hudak acknowledges that if wide levees were built along all 72 miles of the Kankakee in Indiana, the cost would be "staggering--multi-million dollars."

Work on a "model" wide levee is already underway near Shelby in Lake County. It's actually a restoration of the old Williams levee, which runs along the Kankakee for seven miles. The Williams adjoins the river at points, but veers off to a distance of three-quarters of a mile at others.

Because of terrain in the area, the Williams levee runs along the north side of the river only. The cost of rebuilding it is $610,000. Lake County is paying $36,000 in engineering fees and the state is paying the rest. At the moment, there are no plans to acquire land inside the levee for conservation purposes.

The next levees would probably be built at English Lake in LaPorte County, where the Yellow River and two other tributaries join the Kankakee in space of 200 yards. One of the tributaries often floods cropland, and it would be rerouted under a railroad grade to join the river at an oxbough three miles downstream.

A wide levee would be built behind it, and Mr. Hudak says that "LaPorte County is real interested in putting a county park there, much like Grand Kankakee County Park in Lake County,"

The wide levee plan is still in its early stages, and a series of big problems remain to be solved. No one is sure, for instance, how water from dozens of tributary ditches will get through to the Kankakee once the levees are in place. If gaps are cut, the levees might be breeched during floods. Without gaps, pumping might be necessary.

Yet there's an optimism in the valley that such problems can be solved. Says Mr. Swanson: "They'll probably have to cut gaps (to let the tributaries in), but the way it is now, it (the river in flood) meanders all over the country, so the water backs up anyhow.

You'd have to have some careful engineering, but I don't think you'd have a big problem."

Money for the project may pose a bigger problem. "There's no way the state will be able to fund it all at once," says Mr. Hudak. "An alternative would be to have the U.S. Army Corps (of Engineers) look at (funding) the whole project, but that's less a possibility because of Gramm-Rudman. Water projects are usually looked on as pork barrel."

"And local sponsors would probably have to come up with half (the project cost). Another idea is to come up with a local group, other than the Kankakee River Basin Commission, to come up with funding."

But despite this formidable obstacle, Mr. Hudak also sounds optimistic about the future of wide levees along the Kankakee. He likes to put the question of cost inside a larger frame: the benefits which he thinks the wide levees would create.

"The Kankakee Basin was the last known Indiana nesting site for the bald eagle," he says. "With natural land between the levees, there's the possibility of all kinds of wildlife that isn't in there now--like eagles--coming back."

By Rory Holscher

LA SALLE EXPEDITION
In December, 1679, Robert
Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle,
with thirty men crossed
northwestern Indiana by way
of the Kankakee River in
an attempt to find a water
route to the Pacific Ocean.

The Kankakee River is rich in historical associations. Photo by Steve Euvino

New technologies on horizon to dominate future economy

Respected economist, textbook author, and lecturer Dr. Leslie Singer of Indiana University Northwest, lists ten industries he feels are ready to take off and expand, becoming major economic contributors to the success of the United States.

"These industries are not necessarily new, but they are ready to boom in the future. They are products or industries that are needed, some for a long time." he says.

The industries, and products are:

1) "We need to economically produce durable highway products," says Dr. Singer. "The technology is there for the most part, but very little has been done in this area." Original construction costs might suffer, he points out, but local governments and private developers can ill afford to return to stretches of road, pavement, and other foundations year after year to make repairs.

2) Cheaper health care instruments - "There is a market for greater and cheaper instruments in the highly competitive health care market," he offers. Competition and innovations will soon force costs in this field to plummet.

3) Home robotics -- Two worker families dictate the necessity for products that will eliminate mundane, repetitive, and time consuming chores to allow more free time for recreation, business and training.

4) Recreational and leisure time related articles -- The free time will then translate into a whole new realm of leisure development, both as specific area development and product innovation.

5) Security and surveillance systems. "It is a sad fact of life today that more research and implementation of security systems are needed for everything from credit card fraud to apartment and home protection, to personal security," says the professor.

6) Pharmaceuticals -- Newer medicines, more developments, competition, and decreased insurance all point to new and less costly drugs for Americans.

7) Non-toxic agricultural products -- Today's educated consumer, the healthier trends and environmental concerns all point to the development and widespread usage of pesticides, fertilizer, stimulants, animal drugs, and many other products used in farming that are less destructive to humans and their surroundings.

8) Health systems and nutrition will continue to grow as Americans become more and more health conscious. Increased awareness and education has made us more selective in eating, health, grooming, and many other habits. There are unlimited possibilities in the trends toward healthier products such as food, and entire systems designed to help Americans live longer and feel better, says Dr. Singer.

9) Short haul airports will be developed all across the country, also predicts Dr. Singer. Facilities that specialize in transport for business, travelers and shipping may develop. Whatever the outcome small, specialized airports in areas that have none are certain to dominate air traffic in the future.

10) Home industry technology -- "The biggest waste of time in America right now is the traveling to and from the workplace, reveals Dr. Singer.

That commuting is not only a waste of time in itself, but sometimes forces people to waste additional time talking during first hour at work, develops poor attitudes, builds stress and tension, and just literally wastes millions of dollars a year for business. Computers and many other systems, will be designed and perfected over the next two decades to eliminate much of that hassle and make companies and individuals as much as twice as productive as current levels.

By Rick A. Spicer

Ads tell much about the era

By Charlotte P. Conjelko

I'm not sure what it is about that first reel of microfilm of The Gazette that begins in April 1891, but it has the uncanny ability to lead me astray. From my intended research, that is.

Take last year's Progress Edition, for instance. Because I've always been fascinated by Madison Avenue's ability to make us buy-buy-buy, and had done some research in advertising in grad school, I thought it might be interesting to see how sellers enticed buyers before advertising firms came into existence.

However, some mysterious force kept pulling my eye from the ads to the occasional wedding announcement, compelling me to report that in those early editions people "tripped the light fantastic" at weddings and that vinegar bottles, silver pickle castors and slippers were "in" gifts.

This year I thought I'd go back and glean some good points from those early "hints from Heloise"-type articles I had glanced at. There was a method to my madness: I could come up with a light-hearted article for the Progress Edition while learning how women in those days managed to keep up with the laundry, scrub the kitchen floor, make bread and get their Christmas decorations put away before their article for the Progress Edition was due.

Two of those problems were readily solved by Sapolio, a household cleanser touted as being "greater than royalty itself." Its early version of "Buy American" insisted that

any "true patriot and citizen" could "remove the charge of living in grease by using the best invention of the day." In an effort to reach an even wider market than patriots and citizens, the soap also resorted to snob appeal: "better out of the world than out of fashion. Cleanliness is always fashionable and the use of or the neglect to use Sapolio marks a wide difference in social scale. The best classes are always the most scrupulous in matters of cleanliness -- and the best classes use Sapolio."

Sapolio's didn't have a corner on the market though. Pyle's Pearline countered by claiming that it was used by "millions of City Women for washing and cleaning instead of soap. It's natural they should be the first to know of the new ideas. If Pearline is good for them, it's of far more value to Country Women whose work is harder." A later ad recommended "things you wouldn't trust to the wear and tear of a washboard are washed perfectly with Pearline." What couldn't you trust to the washboard? Woolens and flannels, of course. Ivory Soap was around in those days too -- "99 44-100 pure and the best for every purpose."

Now, looking at these ads was not without purpose. Last year I had seen a claim for an elixir that promised to give renewed life to housewives. salesgirls, teachers and nursing mothers among others. Certainly helpful hints are only half the battle of keeping a household going; one needs energy to carry out the hints as well as the garbage.

Naturally, I couldn't find the elixir ad, but did come across a suitable substitute -- "Mexican Mustang Liniment, a cure for the ailments of man and beast. Its use is almost universal by the Housewife, the Farmer, the Stock Raiser and by every one requiring an effective liniment."

Perhaps you'd prefer Syrup of Figs, "Pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispells colds, headaches and fevers and cures habitual constipation," at 50 cents or $1 a bottle.

I may not have come up with any household hints, but I did learn why Freud had such hangups with potty training, something all my psychology professors never seemed able to explain. If papers in Freud's Austria contained as many ads for Bile Beans, they dispel poisonous bile from the system; Tutt's Pills, the liver is the seat of trouble and Tutt's Liver Pills act directly on that organ, causing a free flow of bile without which, the bowels are always constipated; and numerous other remedies acting upon the lower digestive tract, it is no wonder Freud had the hangups he did.

At the other extreme, German Syrup, " a throat and lung specialty," promised "You are a live man yet if you take it." Dr. Sayre's Catarrh Remedy offered $500 if it couldn't cure catarrh, an inflamation of the mucous membranes of the nose and throat.

For those who rely on the "Voice of authority," The Honorable Harvey D. Colvin, ex-mayor of Chicago, endorsed Klinck. "It adorns my toilet stand and by using it occasionaly, I am kept well. I would not be without it if it cost $25 per bottle."

Klinck, that "wonderful remedy that cures catarrh, hay fever, cold in the head, sore throat and canker," sold for $1 a pint.

Sangole was a palitable, digestible, nutritious elixir that produced flesh and cured consumption, while imparting life and vigor to every fiber for only $1.50. Those with more desperate problems were invited to try Kennedy's Medical Discovery, "cures horrid old sores, Deep Seated ulcers of 40 years standing, inward tumors and every disease of the skin except Thunder Humor and Cancer that has taken root."

To find these marvelous medications one only had to go to Nichols and Wood in downtown Hobart. They offered "bargains in fine drugs, chemicals, fluid extracts, tinctures, choice herbs, pills, sugar coated and gelatine coated, as well as school supplies, household drugs, fountain pens, wall paper, paints and oils, tooth and nail brushes, clothes, nursing bottles, breast pumps, trusses and shoulder braces.

While downtown one could also stop at the Hobart Five and Ten Cent Store's 10 cent sale. For one thin dime one could purchase a "large gravy strainer, ladies purse, extra nice shoe brush, covered stew pan, useful frying pan, handsome glass butter dish or a complete vise."

Stratton's promised "always something new" in women's clothing "commencing as low as $1 per garment" and carried paper patterns and books showing the latest styles. And if one rushed one could get in on the "special bargains for the next 60 days" at the Hobart Grocery and Bakery that featured rock bottom prices and the largest line of cigars and tobacco in the county. For those in a hurry, time and money could be saved by buying underwear at Fiester and Killigrew.

And if one was short of cash, the Pioneer Store would take produce in exchange for goods as well as pay the "highest cash price for all kinds of fur." In Deep River, Ind., Wood's Flouring and Grist Mill's "celebrated flour sold in all parts of the Union."

For those who preferred to shop by mail, Towers Improved Slicker with a soft woolen collar was "guaranteed absolutely water proof, will not peel, leak or stick." Undoubtedly the wasp-waist woman in the ad lured many females to send for the Jackson Favorite Waist. A corset that "has style, supports back and spine, gives comfort and ease, a hygenic and healthful boon to women."

L. Wilkinson's ad let the town know that he was a dealer in musical instruments as well as fire, life and accident insurance. The physician and surgeon who succeed Dr. Miller informed the area that he had an office over Fiester and Killigrew, attended calls promptly day and night and specialized in "female diseases in all kinds, particularly of a chronic nature."

Alwin Wild, funeral director and embalmer, kept "constantly on hand complete stock of fine funeral supplies of cloth and wood caskets, burial robes and flowers" as well as an "elegant line of furniture, latest styles of carpets, paints, oils, window shades and window glass."

To pay for the "good life" offered by all the Gazette advertisers one could answer the ad from the J.E. Shepard and Co. in Cincinnati, Ohio, which promised to pay $1 per hour for spare time work. But one was cautioned to "write quick as we will only employe a limited numer." Those with more ambition might be tempted by Valentine's School of Telegraphy in Janesville, Wisc., since "telegraph operators work is pleasant, pays good wages and leads to the highest postions." As further inducements since operators were in great demand, the school promised to "teach quickly" and start its graduates in railroad or commercial service.

For a mere $1.15 a reader could learn of all these bargains and services for a whole year by subscribing to The Gazette. The price also included a year of American Farmer. The paper also tooted its own horn, reminding patrons of "job printing such as cards, bill heads, circulars, posters, etc., etc., executed to order in the neatest and promptest manner at this office."

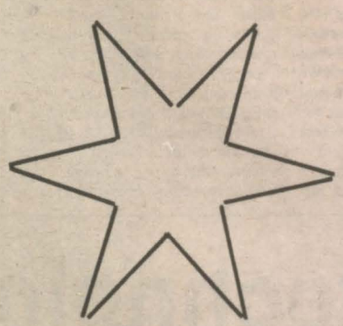
Those interested in a daily paper could subscribe to the Chicago Daily News from the "World's Fair City, as good as the best and cheaper than the cheapest." Claiming its 220,000-240,000 circulation to be the "largest daily circulation in America with a single exception," its ad also declared the paper to be an "independent -- wears no hat -- prints news free from taint of parties or bias. Gives all the news and tells the truth about it."

Well, if the truth be known, I managed only to get through about a year and half of old Gazettes. And after the first dozen or so pages I don't even remember remembering to search for household hints, so engrossed was I in advertising. But I do know that if I ever decide I can't cope with unmade beds, three different colors of mold growing in the refrigerator, missing buttons and fingerprint-bedecked walls, I can always escape at 10:30 a.m. on the Lake Shore Route's "Fast Train" arriving the next day before dark in New York or New England.

Charr Conjelko edits for the ***Hobart Gazette*** *and* ***The Herald.***

F. BARKER. Proprietor Phone. Crown Point 689

The White



Star Sweet Shop

Candies Sandwiches Sodas

Tobacco Coffee Sundaes

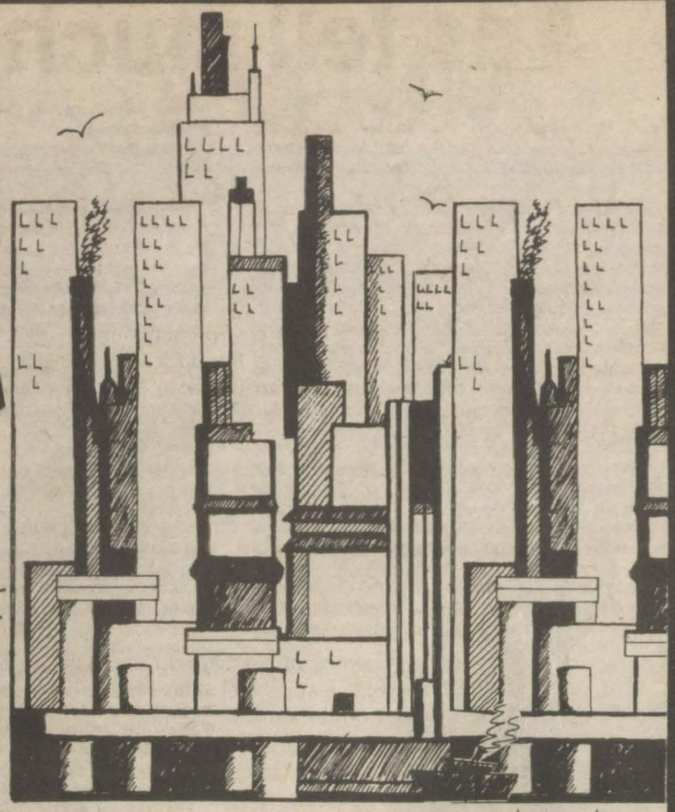
Ice cream and confections furnished for parties, picnics, socials, at a special price.

WALTER'S BLOCK, MERRILLVILLE

An advertisement in a Merrillville High School annual, 1926.

Gino's deli

5053 BROADWAY



NEW YORK STYLE

"STACK 'em HIGH sandwiches"

HOT and COLD subs

Finest Meats & Cheeses by the Pound

Pictured above is Donna Marich. Donna prepares the Homemade Pasta and Pierogi. Various Pierogi fillings are available such as Potato, Sauerkraut, Prune and Cheese.

HOT PASTRAMI
¼ lb. Kosher Style w/reg. or hot mustard
$2.95

ROAST BEEF
HOT OR COLD
¼ lb. of Choice Roast
Choice of Dressing
$2.75

HOT CORNED BEEF
¼ lb. Kosher Style w/reg. or hot mustard
$2.95

GENOA SALAMI
w/Provolone, Lettuce, Tomato, and Deli Sauce
$2.95

"ROCKY BALBOA"
Provolone, Mortadella, Cappicolla, Genoa Salami, Lettuce, Tomato, Deli Sauce & More!
$3.25

TURKEY
Sliced Turkey Breast w/Lettuce, Tomato and Mayo
$2.75

DON CORLEONE
Melted Provolone and Mozzarella, Corned Beef, Pastrami w/Peppers.
$3.25

HAM and CHEESE
¼ lb. Boiled Ham, Cheese, Lettuce and Tomato.
$2.50

BRATWURST
Lettuce and Tomato, Choice of Dressing.
$1.00

CHEESE or CHILI DOG
Vienna Frank
$1.15

ITALIAN TOMATO BREAD
$1.25

ALL AMERICAN HOT DOG
Vienna Frank
95¢

POLISH SAUSAGE
Choice of Dressing, Onions, Kraut, Chili, Ketchup, Relish and Mustard.
$1.50

SALADS
MADE FRESH EVERY DAY

INTRODUCING
NEW YORK'S FINEST CHEESECAKE
Whole or by the slice

SOUPS and CHILI

PHONE AHEAD FOR FAST TAKE-OUT SERVICE

980-8899

PARKING ALONG SIDE OF BUILDING

Miller's Merry Manor

We're Proud to be serving the Lake County Area

Miller's Merry Manor has been a part of the Hobart community since February of 1982. With our addition completed in the Fall of 1984 and our extensive redecorating program, we offer one of the most comfortable living environments in the area. From our dining room, residents have a full view of our gazebo overlooking the duck pond. Residents truly enjoy the scenery during warmer weather. With our increased room availability we have also increased the number of employees by almost double the number. We now employ approximately 135 people. Included in that number are 25 RN's and LPN's providing care 24 hours per day. In addition, our management staff can boast that it has over 100 years experience in the health care field. Our total payroll per years is in excess of $1.1 million--flowing back into the community, providing jobs and services for other industries.

Our staff is dedicated to meeting the complete living needs of each resident, all in a safe, comfortable home-like environment. This year we had five employees who celebrated 10 years of dedicated service and 8 who celebrated five or more years. We are proud to say that we have a very low turnover and absenteeism rate, making it possible to provide a continuity of care and a more stable atmosphere for our residents.

Since the opening of our Skilled Care Unit, we are able to provide many more specialized services. A full range of therapies including Physical, Speech, and Occupational therapies are available along with services from a podiatrist, dentist, x-ray and lab. Our Medical Director who has served the community for several years provides services to our residents and accepts new patients who need the services of a physician in our facility.

Miller's Merry Manor is dedicated to ongoing education for each of its employees. We believe up-to-date training and education are necessary to maintain staff qualifications at acceptable levels. Several levels of specialized training are offered to our nursing staff with tuition reimbursement given to employees who wish to pursue an RN or LPN program.

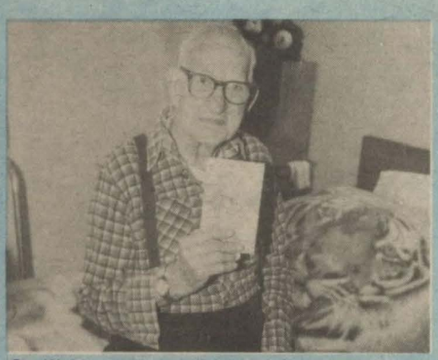
Our dietary staff takes pride in their delicious homecooked meals and makes certain particular care is given to meals for residents requiring special diets. Our spacious and comfortable dining room makes dining a pleasure. We are also supplying the area with Meals-on-Wheels.

Our activities program is tailored to the individual requests and needs of our residents. Activities are planned for every day of the week and evenings. Our van, with a wheelchair lift, is available for field trips, shopping trips, and special events throughout the year. Our volunteers are truly dedicated and sincerely appreciated by residents and staff.

Tastefully decorated rooms and lounges creates an atmosphere of warmth and greatly encourages the social life of residents. Personal touches may be made by residents to make their rooms more homelike.

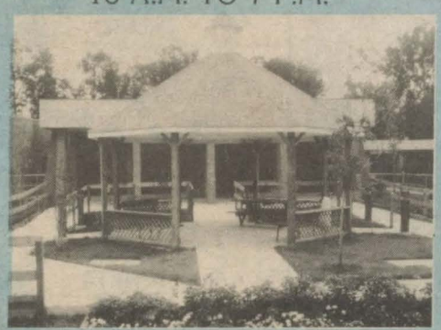
For more than 20 years, Miller's Merry Manor has been bringing our special brand of quality to communities throughout Indiana. Miller's "hometown" care means we provide a living atmosphere that is sure to make residents feel at home. Our staff of experienced, caring professionals is trained to respect the mental and physical needs of each individual.

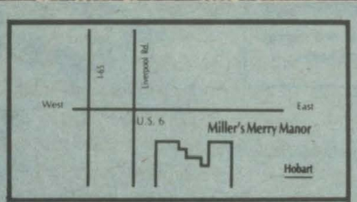
Miller's Merry Manor is a member of the Indiana and American Health Care Association, National Fire and Prevention Association, Hobart Chamber of Commerce, Hobart Rotary and the Better Business Bureau.

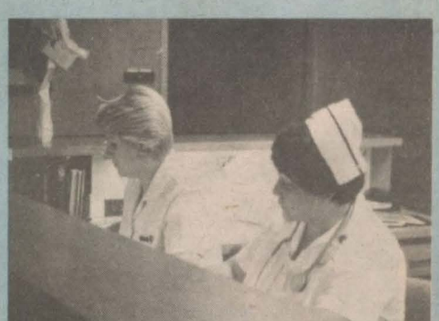


Ora Webb celebrates 101st birthday.

VISIT DURING THE HOURS OF:
10 A.M. TO 7 P.M.







MILLER'S MERRY MANOR

"The Health Care Professionals With The Hometown Touch"

2901 West 37th Ave. • Hobart

(219) 942-2170